



US009067875B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Chen et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,067,875 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** ***Jun. 30, 2015**

(54) **TETRA-SUBSTITUTED NDGA DERIVATIVES VIA ETHER BONDS AND CARBAMATE BONDS AND THEIR SYNTHESIS AND PHARMACEUTICAL USE**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/470,779**

(22) Filed: **May 14, 2012**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2013/0303531 A1 Nov. 14, 2013
US 2015/0141417 A9 May 21, 2015

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 12/443,906, filed as application No. PCT/US2007/080182 on Oct. 2, 2007, now Pat. No. 8,178,527.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/827,776, filed on Oct. 2, 2006.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

A61K 31/5377 (2006.01)
A61K 31/495 (2006.01)
A61K 31/445 (2006.01)
A61K 31/426 (2006.01)
A61K 31/27 (2006.01)
A61K 31/135 (2006.01)
A61K 31/075 (2006.01)
C07D 265/30 (2006.01)
C07D 241/04 (2006.01)
C07D 211/06 (2006.01)
C07D 277/02 (2006.01)
C07C 271/02 (2006.01)
C07C 215/00 (2006.01)
C07C 43/02 (2006.01)
C07C 43/225 (2006.01)
C07C 43/23 (2006.01)
C07C 217/20 (2006.01)
C07D 277/24 (2006.01)
C07D 295/088 (2006.01)
C07D 295/13 (2006.01)
C07D 307/52 (2006.01)
C07C 217/64 (2006.01)
C07C 271/52 (2006.01)
C07D 211/14 (2006.01)
C07D 295/15 (2006.01)
C07D 307/54 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **C07C 43/225** (2013.01); **C07C 43/23** (2013.01); **C07C 217/20** (2013.01); **C07D 277/24** (2013.01); **C07D 295/088** (2013.01); **C07D 295/13** (2013.01); **C07D 307/52** (2013.01); **C07C 217/64** (2013.01); **C07C 271/52** (2013.01); **C07C 2101/16** (2013.01); **C07D 211/14** (2013.01); **C07D 295/15** (2013.01); **C07D 307/54** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC 514/231.8, 252.11, 316, 365, 471, 490, 514/651, 721; 544/86, 87, 357; 546/191; 548/205; 549/473; 560/25; 564/354; 568/644, 645

See application file for complete search history.

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ABSTRACT

Disclosed are nordihydroguaiaretic acid derivative compounds including various end groups bonded by a carbon atom or heteroatom through a side chain bonded to the respective hydroxy residue O groups by an ether bond or a carbamate bond, pharmaceutical compositions, methods of making them, and methods of using them and kits including them for the treatment of diseases and disorders, in particular, diseases resulting from or associated with a virus infection, such as HIV infection, HPV infection, or HSV infection, an inflammatory disease, such as various types of arthritis and inflammatory bowel diseases, a metabolic disease, such as diabetes, a vascular disease, such as hypertension and macular degeneration, or a proliferative disease, such as diverse types of cancers.

18 Claims, No Drawings

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TETRA-SUBSTITUTED NDGA DERIVATIVES VIA ETHER BONDS AND CARBAMATE BONDS AND THEIR SYNTHESIS AND PHARMACEUTICAL USE

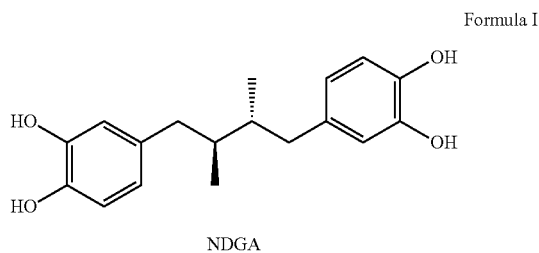
CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional application of application Ser. No. 12/443,906 filed on Apr. 1, 2009 now U.S. Pat. No. 8,178,527 which is a U.S. National Phase application under 35 U.S.C. §371 of International Patent Application No. PCT/US2007/080182, filed Oct. 2, 2007 which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/827,776 filed Oct. 2, 2006, which applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to nordihydroguaiaretic acid derivatives, methods of making them and methods of using them for treating viral infections, inflammatory diseases, metabolic diseases, vascular (including cardiovascular) diseases and proliferative diseases, such as cancer.

Nordihydroguaiaretic acid (NDGA, Formula I) has the following chemical structure, in which there are two catechol groups, and a 2,3-dimethylbutane bridge. The butane bridge links two catechol moieties through a 4 position. NDGA is a natural compound that can be isolated from the resin of the leaves of *Larrea tridentata*, a desert plant indigenous to the southwestern United States and Mexico. It has a meso-form conformation of (2S,3R), which is the symmetric structure, and is not optical active.



Research on NDGA and its derivatives has been attracting increasing interest recently. A large number of NDGA derivatives have been reported, and could be classified as the following:

Type 1: ether bonded NDGA, the most common NDGA derivatives, in which a substituted group is chemically bonded to one or more of the hydroxy groups of the catechol moieties.

Type 2: ester bonded NDGA derivatives, in which a substituted group is covalently bonded to one or more of the hydroxy groups of the catechol moieties.

Type 3: end-ring NDGA derivatives, in which two hydroxy groups at the catechol moieties were linked together to form 5-6 member rings through ether or carbonate bonds.

Type 4: di-substituted NDGA derivatives, in which one hydroxy group of the catechol is methylated, the other one is covalently bonded to a substituted group.

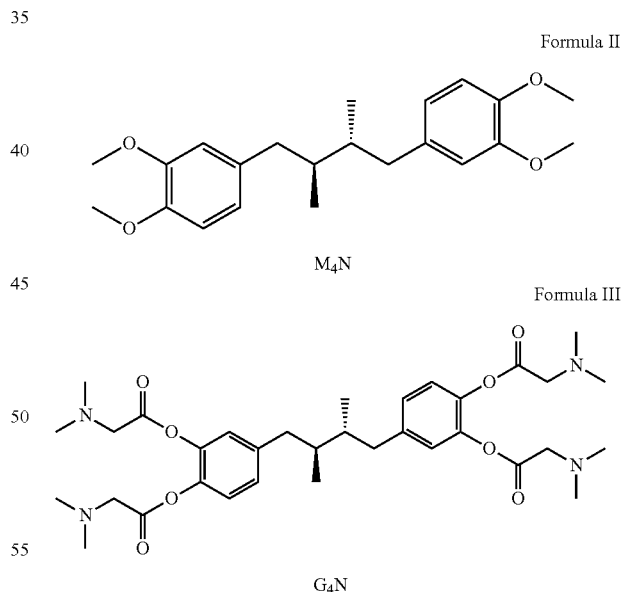
Type 5: phenyl ring modifications, in which the substituted groups are chemically linked to the phenyl ring.

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Type 6: Butane bridge modifications, in which two methyl groups in the bridge were removed or modified by substituted groups.

NDGA and its synthetic derivatives have numerous characteristics. Being a lipoxygenase inhibitor, NDGA can induce cystic nephropathy in the rat.¹ In addition, it shows various bioactivities, including inhibition of protein kinase C,² induction of apoptosis,³ alterations of the cellular membrane,⁴ elevation of cellular Ca^{2+} level⁵ and activation of Ca^{2+} channels in smooth muscle cells,⁶ breakdown of pre-formed Alzheimer's beta-amyloid fibrils in vitro,⁷ anti-oxidation,⁸ etc. This natural product NDGA is used commercially as a food additive to preserve fats and butter in some parts of the world. Recently, the derivatives of the plant lignan NDGA have been used to block viral replication through the inhibition of viral transcription.⁹⁻¹⁶ These compounds can inhibit production of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV),⁹⁻¹³ herpes simplex virus (HSV),^{14, 15} and human papillomavirus (HPV) transcripts¹⁶ by deactivation of their Sp1-dependent promoters. Moreover, (tetra-O-methyl)nordihydroguaiaretic acid (M_4N , Formula II, terameprocol) can function as an anti-HIV proviral transcription inhibitor and causes growth arrest of a variety of transformed human and mouse cells in culture and in mice.¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Compound M_4N is currently in clinical trials against human cancers.

While M_4N (Formula II) is a strikingly effective and non-toxic anticancer agent, M_4N and several other methylated NDGAs, all show poor water solubility which somewhat limit their application for certain drug action studies. To circumvent this problem, a water soluble derivative of NDGA, (tetra-O-dimethylglycyl)nordihydroguaiaretic acid (G_4N , Formula III) has been designed and synthesized.^{11, 18}



G_4N is a very effective mutation-insensitive inhibitor to HIV-1, HSV-1 and HSV-2.¹⁷ However, it is somewhat unstable and has a relatively short half-life in aqueous solution, reportedly due to the ester bonds connecting the dimethyl glycine moieties on the NDGA main skeleton.¹⁸

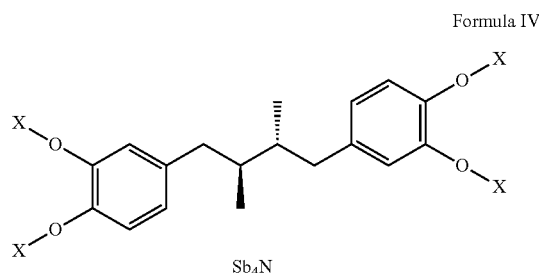
Therefore, there is a need for NDGA derivatives, some with improved water solubility, as well as good stability, both as water soluble compound and as hydrophobic compounds having the desired pharmaceutical effects. The inventors have

developed new derivatives of NDGA that have these advantages and will be useful in therapeutic compositions and treatment methods.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to nordihydroguaiaretic acid derivative compounds, pharmaceutical compositions, methods of making them, and methods of using them and kits including them for the treatment of diseases and disorders, in particular, diseases resulting from or associated with a virus infection, an inflammatory disease, a metabolic disease, a vascular disease or a proliferative disease.

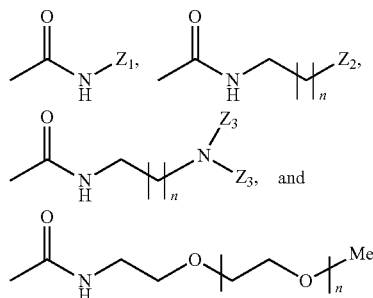
One aspect of the present invention relates to a nordihydroguaiaretic acid derivative compound designated "Sb₄N", having the following general structure (Formula IV), as well as its pharmaceutically acceptable salts:



The compound has a nordihydroguaiaretic acid (NDGA) backbone, designated by "N" in the designation "Sb₄N." The four groups X are substituted for H in the NDGA hydroxyl groups (sometimes referred to as the "substituted group X") designated by "Sb₄" in "Sb₄N."

X is selected from the group consisting of:

- A-R;
- (CH₂)_xHal, where x is an integer of 1 to 10, and Hal is a halogen atom, namely any of chlorine, fluorine, bromine or iodine;
- (CH₂CH₂O)_yH, where y is an integer of 1 to 10; and
- a carbamate-bonded group selected from the group consisting of:



where n is an integer of 1 to 6, Z₁ is a saturated linear hydrocarbon chain of 2-6 carbons and optionally 1-3 halogen atoms, Z₂ is a 5- to 7-member ring optionally containing 0-3 double bonds and optionally containing 1-3 atoms of any of O, N and S, and Z₃ is methyl or ethyl.

When X is -A-R, R is an end group and A is a linear saturated hydrocarbon side chain with optional heteroatoms that is bonded at one end to the respective hydroxy residue O

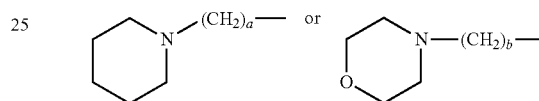
groups by an ether bond or a carbamate bond and at the other end to a carbon or a heteroatom in the end group R.

The side chain A is selected from the group consisting of a C₂-C₁₆ linear saturated hydrocarbon chain, optionally with 1-5 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of O, N and S, bonded to the respective hydroxy residue O groups of NDGA through an ether bond; and 1-5 units of a polyethylene glycol (PEG) chain.

The end group R is selected from the group consisting of:
 a 5- to 7-member carbocyclic ring selected from the group consisting of a fully saturated ring with 1 to 3 N, O or S heteroatoms; a ring containing 1 to 3 double bonds for a 6- or 7-member ring and 1 to 2 double bonds for a 5-member ring, with 1 to 3 N, O or S heteroatoms for the 5 to 7 member ring; a ring containing a carbamate bond, a urea bond, a carbonate bond or an amide bond; and

a water soluble group selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal salt of sulfonic acid; an alkali metal salt of phosphonic acid; a pharmaceutically acceptable salt; a sugar and a polyhydroxy group.

Where X is



a is an integer of 3 to 16 and b is an integer of 4 to 16.

Another aspect of the invention is a composition comprising the Sb₄N compound and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, optionally with other pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

Still another aspect of the invention is a method of making the Sb₄N compound as set forth hereinafter.

Another aspect of the invention is a method of administering to a subject, an amount of the Sb₄N compound alone or as part of a pharmaceutical composition effective prophylactically or for treating a viral infection.

Yet another aspect of the invention is a method of administering to a subject an amount of the Sb₄N compound alone or as part of a pharmaceutical composition effective prophylactically or for treating a proliferative disease.

Another aspect of the invention is a method of administering to a subject an amount of the Sb₄N compound alone or as part of a pharmaceutical composition effective prophylactically or for treating an inflammatory disease.

Yet another aspect of the invention is a method of administering to a subject an amount of the Sb₄N compound alone or as part of a pharmaceutical composition effective prophylactically or for treating a metabolic disease.

Yet another aspect of the invention is a method of administering to a subject an amount of the Sb₄N compound alone or as part of a pharmaceutical composition effective prophylactically or for treating a vascular disease.

Still another aspect of the present invention is a kit comprising a pharmaceutical composition comprising the Sb₄N compound and instructions for its use prophylactically or for treating a viral infection, a proliferative disease, an inflammatory disease, a metabolic disease or a vascular disease.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As noted above, the present invention relates to nordihydroguaiaretic acid derivative compounds, pharmaceutical compositions containing them, methods of making them, and

methods of using them and kits including them for the treatment of diseases and disorders, in particular, viral infections, such as, for example and without limitation, infections caused by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), human papilloma-viruses (HPV)(all subtypes), herpes simplex virus 1 and 2 (HSV-1 and HSV-2), Varicella Zoster virus, cytomegalovirus, Epstein Barr virus, pox viruses (smallpox, cowpox, monkey-pox, vaccinia), orthohepadnavirus, JC virus, and BK virus; inflammatory diseases, such as, for example and without limitation, various types of arthritis and inflammatory bowel diseases; metabolic diseases, such as, for example and with-out limitation, diabetes; vascular diseases, such as for example hypertension, cardiovascular diseases and macular degeneration; and proliferative diseases such as various types of cancers.

The present invention is based on considerations including experience with agents used for treating cancer and viruses, including HIV; derivatives having a chemical structure related to NDGA; where such derivatives have more potency, better PD/PK profile and less or no side effects versus (tetra-O-methyl)nordihydroguaiaretic acid (M_4N) (terameprocol), at least some formulations of which are orally bioavailable. The NDGA derivatives of the present invention are in the meso form without any possible mixtures of their enantiomers, which will make the chemical and biological characterization easier. The substituent functional groups for the modifications of the NDGA parent, compound are selected from among the most common chemical groups used for successful drug molecule modifications. They are readily able to be synthesized and readily formulated with reasonable aqueous solubility, in that in the HCl or other salt form or in free base, they have considerable aqueous solubility. Other of the NDGA derivatives of the present invention are hydrophobic. The NDGA derivatives of the present invention have good stability, whether they are water soluble compounds or hydrophobic compounds. The derivatives may be scaled-up readily for commercial production.

The NDGA derivatives of the present invention were developed based on the fact that NDGA is natural compound with a broad range of biological activities. NDGA has a lot of side effects, which are overcome by the derivatives of the invention. The derivatives have improved biological activities. The research leading to the development of the present invention has also shown that hydroxy group modification of NDGA derivatives, such as M_4N , prevents tumor cell replication and selectively induces tumor cell death (apoptosis). This is achieved by preventing Sp1-regulated production of cdc2 (p34) and survivin. Survivin is an inhibitor of apoptosis protein (IAP) over-expressed in pre-cancerous and cancerous cells, and rarely found in healthy adult cells. M_4N also prevents proliferation of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), herpes simplex virus (HSV), and human papilloma virus (HPV). This is achieved through the deactivation of viral Sp1-dependent promoters that are essential for viral propagation. NDGA derivatives of the present invention will remarkably improve their activities to prevent Sp1-regulated production of cdc2 and survivin by using a suitable functional group to modify the hydroxyl group of NDGA.

DEFINITIONS

A "buffer" suitable for use herein includes any buffer conventional in the art, such as, for example, Tris, phosphate, imidazole, and bicarbonate.

A "cyclodextrin" as used herein means an unmodified cyclodextrin or a modified cyclodextrin, and includes with out limitation α -cyclodextrin, β -cyclodextrin, γ -cyclodextrin and any modified cyclodextrins containing modifications thereto, such as hydroxypropyl- β -cyclodextrin ("HP- β -CD") or sulfolbutyl ether β -cyclodextrin ("SBE- β -CD"). Cyclodextrin typically has 6 (α -cyclodextrin), 7 (β -cyclodextrin), and 8 (γ -cyclodextrin) sugars, up to three substitutions per sugar, and 0 to 24 primary substitutions are therefore possible (primary substitutions are defined as substitutions connected directly to the cyclodextrin ring). The modified or unmodified cyclodextrins used in the present invention may have any appropriate number and location of primary substitutions or other modifications.

An "NDGA derivative" of the present invention as used herein means a derivative of NDGA designated as " Sb_4N " hereinafter.

A "pharmaceutically acceptable carrier" refers to a non-toxic solid, semisolid or liquid filler, diluent, encapsulating material or formulation auxiliary of any conventional type. A "pharmaceutically acceptable carrier" is non-toxic to recipients at the dosages and concentrations employed, and is compatible with other ingredients of the formulation. For example, the carrier for a formulation containing the present catecholic butane or NDGA derivatives preferably does not include oxidizing agents and other compounds that are known to be deleterious to such derivatives. Suitable carriers include, but are not limited to, water, dextrose, glycerol, saline, ethanol, buffer, dimethyl sulfoxide, Cremaphor EL, and combinations thereof. The carrier may contain additional agents such as wetting or emulsifying agents, or pH buffering agents. Other materials such as anti-oxidants, humectants, viscosity stabilizers, and similar agents may be added as necessary.

A "pharmaceutically acceptable salt" as used herein includes the acid addition salts (formed with the free amino groups of the polypeptide) and which are formed with inorganic acids such as, for example, hydrochloric or phosphoric acids, or such organic acids as acetic, mandelic and oxalic acids. Salts formed with the free carboxyl groups may also be derived from inorganic bases such as, for example, sodium, potassium, ammonium, calcium, or ferric hydroxides, and such organic bases as isopropylamine, trimethylamine, 2-ethylamino ethanol, and histidine. Non-limiting examples of pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the NDGA derivatives of the present invention include, for instance, the following general formula of salts:



where N is NDGA, Sb is a substituted group X as described in Tables 1 and 2 below, k is an integer or non integer number, and acid is organic or inorganic acid, as exemplified in the following non-limiting Table A:

TABLE A

Sb	Acid	k
Containing one basic nitrogen atom	HCl, HBr, HNO ₃ , MeSO ₃ H, H ₂ SO ₄ , aspartic acid, citric acid, benzenesulfonic acid, camphoric acid, camphorsulfonic acid, ethanesulfonic acid, 2-hydroxy-ethanesulfonic acid, formic acid, fumaric acid, galactaric acid, D-gluconic acid, glycolic acid, hippuric acid,	1-4

TABLE A-continued

Sb	Acid	k
Containing two basic nitrogen atoms	L-lactic acid, maleic acid, malic acid, malonic acid, nicotinic acid, palmitic acid, pamoic acid, phosphoric acid, salicylic acid, succinic acid, tartaric acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, HCl, HBr, HNO ₃ , MeSO ₃ H, H ₂ SO ₄ , aspartic acid, citric acid, benzenesulfonic acid, camphoric acid, camphorsulfonic acid, ethanesulfonic acid, 2-hydroxy-ethanesulfonic acid, formic acid, fumaric acid, galactaric acid, D-gluconic acid, glycolic acid, hippuric acid, L-lactic acid, maleic acid, malic acid, malonic acid, nicotinic acid, palmitic acid, pamoic acid, phosphoric acid, salicylic acid, succinic acid, tartaric acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid.	1-8

The term “pharmaceutically acceptable excipient” as used herein includes vehicles, adjuvants, or diluents or other auxiliary substances, such as those conventional in the art, which are readily available to the public. For example, pharmaceutically acceptable auxiliary substances include pH adjusting and buffering agents, tonicity adjusting agents, stabilizers, wetting agents and the like.

A “ring” as used herein, unless otherwise specified, as used herein such as the terms “5-member ring,” “6-member ring” and “7-member ring,” refers to a carbocyclic ring with any indicated heteroatoms.

The terms “subject,” “host,” and “patient,” are used interchangeably herein to refer to an animal being treated with the present compositions, including, but not limited to, simians, humans, felines, canines, equines, bovines, porcines, ovines, caprines, mammalian farm animals, mammalian sport animals, and mammalian pets.

A “substantially purified” compound in reference to the NDGA derivatives herein is one that is substantially free of compounds that are not the NDGA derivative of the present invention (hereafter, “non-NDGA derivative materials”). By substantially free is meant at least 50%, preferably at least 70%, more preferably at least 80%, and even more preferably at least 90% free of non-NDGA derivative materials.

As used herein, the terms “treatment,” “treating,” and the like, refer to obtaining a desired pharmacologic and/or physiologic effect. The effect may be prophylactic in terms of completely or partially preventing a condition or disease or symptom thereof and/or may be therapeutic in terms of a partial or complete cure for a condition or disease and/or adverse affect attributable to the condition or disease. “Treatment,” thus, for example, covers any treatment of a condition or disease in an animal, preferably in a mammal, and more preferably in a human, and includes: (a) preventing the condition or disease from occurring in a subject which may be predisposed to the condition or disease but has not yet been diagnosed as having it; (b) inhibiting the condition or disease, such as, arresting its development; and (c) relieving, alleviating or ameliorating the condition or disease, such as, for example, causing regression of the condition or disease.

This invention is described by way of example only and is not to be interpreted in any way as limiting the invention. Thus, this invention is not limited to particular embodiments described, as such may, of course, vary. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only, and is not intended to be limiting, since the scope of the present invention will be limited only by the appended claims in a non-provisional application based on this provisional application.

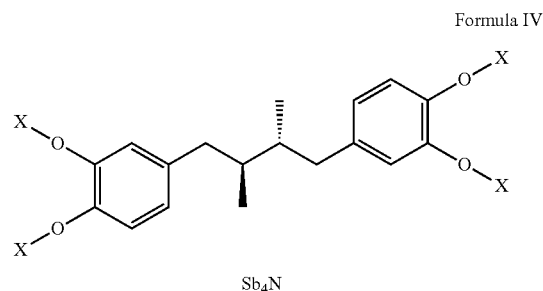
Where a range of values is provided, it is understood that each intervening value, to the tenth of the unit of the lower limit unless the context clearly dictates otherwise, between

the upper and lower limit of that range and any other stated or intervening value in that stated range, is encompassed within the invention. The upper and lower limits of these smaller ranges may independently be included in the smaller ranges, and are also encompassed within the invention, subject to any specifically excluded limit in the stated range. Where the stated range includes one or both of the limits, ranges excluding either or both of those included limits are also included in the invention.

It must be noted that as used herein, the singular forms “a,” “an,” and “the” include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. Thus, for example, reference to “a derivative” includes a plurality of such derivatives and reference to “the NDGA derivative” includes reference to one or more NDGA derivatives and equivalents thereof known to those skilled in the art in view of the present disclosure.

All publications mentioned herein, including patents, patent applications, and journal articles are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties including the references cited therein, which are also incorporated herein by reference. The publications discussed herein are provided solely for their disclosure prior to the filing date of the present application. Nothing herein is to be construed as an admission that the present invention is not entitled to antedate such publication by virtue of prior invention. Further, the dates of publication provided may be different from the actual publication dates which may need to be independently confirmed.

As noted above, one aspect of the present invention relates to an Sb₄N nordihydroguaiaretic acid derivative compound having the following general structure (Formula IV), as well as its pharmaceutically acceptable salts:



The compound has a nordihydroguaiaretic acid (NDGA) backbone, designated by “N” in the designation “Sb₄N.” The four groups X are substituted for H in the NDGA hydroxyl groups (sometimes referred to as the “substituted group X”) designated by “Sb₄” in “Sb₄N.”

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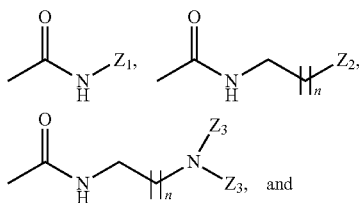
X is selected from the group consisting of:

-A-R;

—(CH₂)_xHal, where x is an integer of 1 to 10, and Hal is a halogen atom, namely any of chlorine, fluorine, bromine or iodine;

—(CH₂CH₂O)_yH, where y is an integer of 1 to 10; and

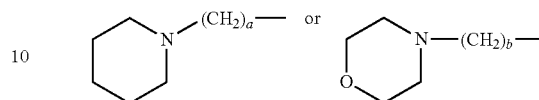
a carbamate-bonded group selected from the group consisting of:



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Where X is —(CH₂CH₂O)_yH, y is preferably 1 to 3, and more preferably, for example, in this instance, X is —(CH₂)₂OH (when y is 1); or —(CH₂)₂—O—(CH₂)₂—OH (when y is 2).

One proviso is where X is



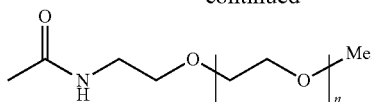
a is an integer of 3 to 16 and b is an integer of 4 to 16.

With the foregoing additional definitions of X and the proviso, the side chain A and the end groups R may be selected from those set forth in the Brief Summary of the Invention above, wherein the side chain A and the end groups R are set forth in tabular form in the following Table 1:

TABLE 1

Side chain A	C ₂ -C ₁₆ linear saturated hydrocarbon chain optionally with 1-5 N, O or S heteroatoms, and the chain is bonded at one end to the respective hydroxy groups residue O of NGDA through an ether bond and at the other end to a carbon or heteroatom of the end group R
R is a 7-member ring	1-5 units of polyethylene glycol (PEG) chain fully saturated 7-member ring with 1 to 3 N, O or S heteroatoms 7-member ring containing 1 to 3 double bonds with 1 to 3 N, O or S heteroatoms 7-member ring containing a carbamate bond, a urea bond, a carbonate bond or an amide bond
R is a 6-member ring	fully saturated 6-member ring with 1 to 3 N, O or S heteroatoms 6-member ring containing 1 to 3 double bonds with 1 to 3 N, O or S heteroatoms 6-member ring containing a carbamate bond, a urea bond, a carbonate bond or an amide bond
R is a 5-member ring	fully saturated 5-member ring with 1 to 3 N, O or S heteroatoms 5-member ring containing 1 to 2 double bonds with 1 to 3 N, O or S heteroatoms 5-member ring containing a carbamate bond, a urea bond, a carbonate bond or an amide bond
R is a water soluble group	an alkali metal salt of sulfonic acid an alkali metal salt of phosphonic acid a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, such as shown in Table A a sugar a polyhydroxy group

-continued



where n is an integer of 1 to 6, Z₁ is a saturated linear hydrocarbon chain of 2-6 carbons and optionally 1-3 halogen atoms, Z₂ is a 5- to 7-member ring optionally containing 0-3 double bonds and optionally containing 1-3 atoms of any of O, N and S, and Z₃ is methyl or ethyl.

Where X is —(CH₂)_xHal, x is preferably 1 to 3, and Hal is chlorine or fluorine; more preferably, in this instance, X is —(CH₂)₂F, for example.

Non-limiting examples of a suitable side chain A are C₂-C₄ linear chain, such as ethylene, propylene or butylene, bonded at one end to the respective hydroxy residue O groups of NDGA through an ether bond; C₂-C₄ linear chain, such as ethylene, propylene or butylene, with an O or N heteroatom, and the chain is bonded to the respective hydroxy residue O groups of NGDA through an ether bond; 1-3 units of polyethylene glycol (PEG) chain; or a carbamate bond. The side chain is bonded at the other end to a carbon or heteroatom of the end group R.

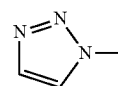
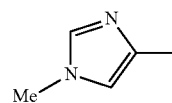
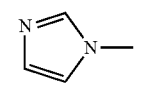
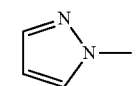
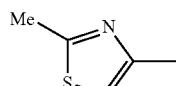
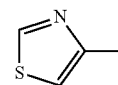
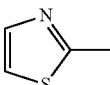
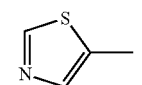
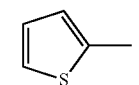
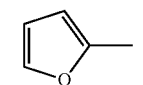
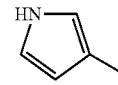
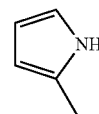
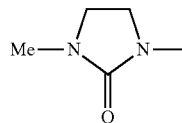
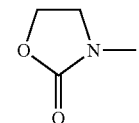
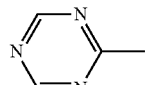
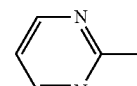
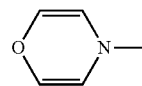
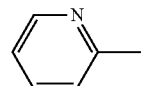
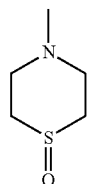
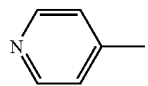
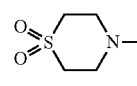
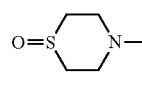
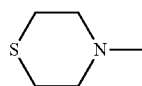
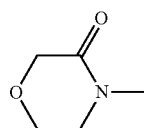
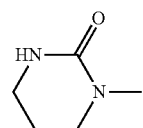
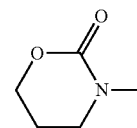
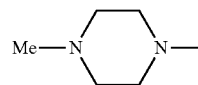
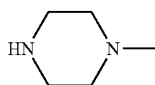
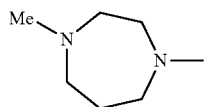
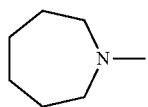
Non-limiting examples of suitable end groups R are set forth in the following Table 2:

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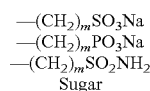
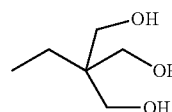
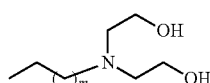
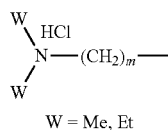
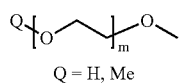
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TABLE 2

R is 5-7
member
carbocyclic
ring
containing
1-3 N,
O or S
heteroatoms



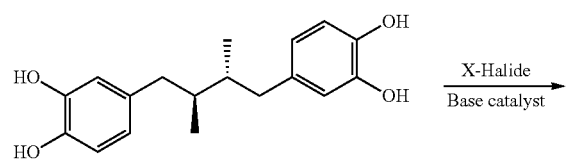
R is
poly-
hydroxy,
sugar, or
other
water
soluble
group,
where
m is an
integer
of 2 to 6



General methods to synthesize the ether bonded NDGA derivatives are as follows:

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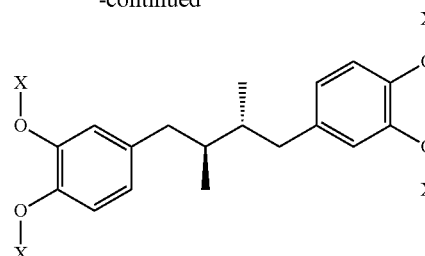
General Method 1: Reaction of Alkyl Halide with NDGA Under Basic Catalytic Conditions:



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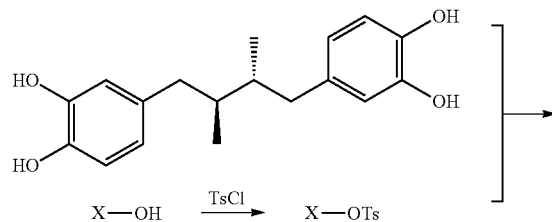
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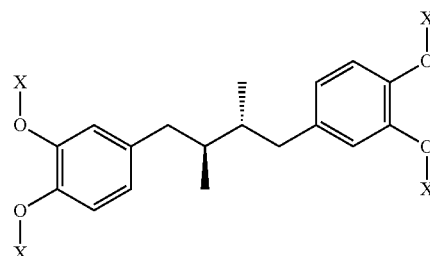


General Method 2: Reaction of Toluenesulfonic Acid Activated Alcohol with NDGA:

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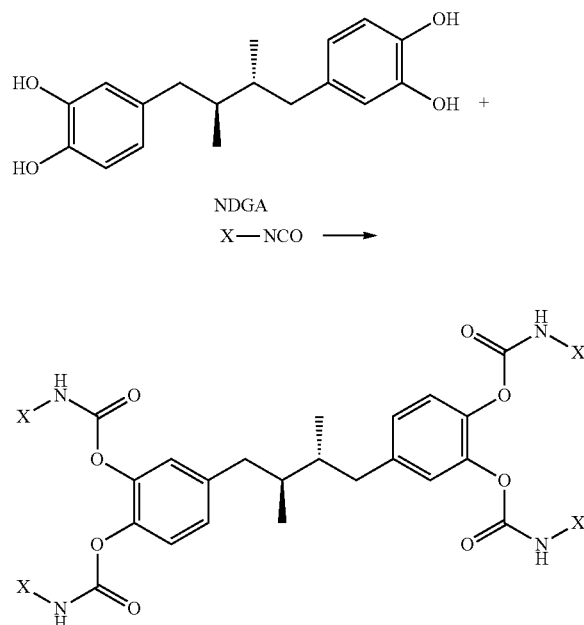


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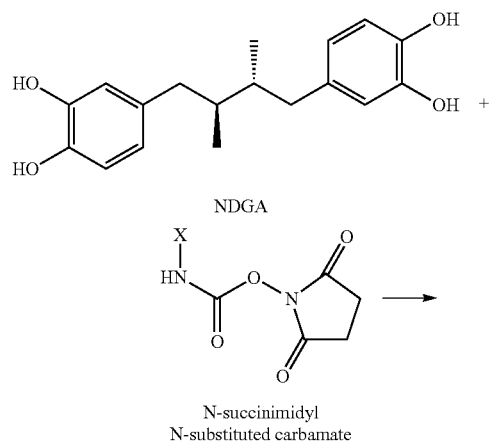


General methods to synthesize the carbamate bonded NDGA derivatives are as follows:

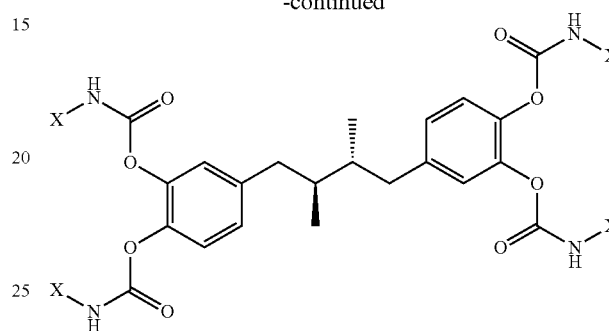
General Method 1: Reaction of an Isocyanate Compound with NDGA



General Method 2: Reaction of N-Succinimidyl N-Substituted Carbamate with NDGA



-continued



Details of the preparation of exemplary specific NDGA derivative compounds according to the present invention will be set forth below in the Examples section.

The present NDGA derivatives in a suitable formulation, preferably but not exclusively as the active ingredient or as one of two or more active ingredients in a pharmaceutical composition with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient where appropriate, can be safely administered to a subject in need of such treatment by intranasal delivery, by inhalation, intravenously such as by infusion or by injection into the central vein for example, intra-arterially (with or without occlusion), intraperitoneally, interstitially, subcutaneously, transdermally, intradermally, intraocularly, intramuscularly, topically, intracranially, intraventricularly, orally, or buccally, or by implantation.

Moreover, the NDGA derivatives can be safely administered to a subject in need of such treatment in solution, suspension, semisolid or solid forms as appropriate, or in liposomal formulations, nanoparticle formulations, or micellar formulations for administration via one or more routes mentioned above.

Furthermore, the NDGA derivatives in liposomal formulations, nanoparticles formulations, or micellar formulations can be embedded in a biodegradable polymer formulation and safely administered, such as by subcutaneous implantation.

Compositions for administration herein may, be in any suitable form, such as and without limitation, a solution, suspension, tablet, pill, capsule, sustained release formulation or powder, a liquid that is either hydrophilic or hydrophobic, a powder such as one resulting from lyophilization, an aerosol, an aqueous or water-soluble composition, a hydrophobic composition, a liposomal composition, a micellar composition such as that based on Tween® 80 or diblock copolymers, a nanoparticle composition, a polymer composition, a cyclodextrin complex composition, an emulsion, or as lipid based nanoparticles termed "lipocores."

The present invention further encompasses compositions, including pharmaceutical compositions, comprising the NDGA derivatives and pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients. These compositions may include a buffer,

which is selected according to the desired use of the NDGA derivatives, and may also include other substances appropriate for the intended use. Those skilled in the art can readily select an appropriate buffer, a wide variety of which are known in the art, suitable for an intended use, in view of the present disclosure. In some instances, the composition can comprise a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, a variety of which are known in the art. Pharmaceutically acceptable excipients suitable for use herein are described in a variety of publications, including, for example, Gennaro (Gennaro, A., *Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy*, 19th edition, Lippincott, Williams, & Wilkins, (1995)); Ansel, et al. (Ansel, H. C. et al., *Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms and Drug Delivery Systems*, 7th edition, Lippincott, Williams, & Wilkins (1999)); and Kibbe (Kibbe, A. H., *Handbook of Pharmaceutical Excipients*, 3rd edition Amer. Pharmaceutical Assoc.).

The compositions herein are formulated in accordance to the mode of potential administration. Thus, if the composition is intended to be administered intranasally or by inhalation, for example, the composition may be converted to a powder or aerosol form, as conventional in the art, for such purposes. Other formulations, such as for oral or parenteral delivery, are also used as conventional in the art.

Compositions or formulations suitable for oral or injectable delivery additionally includes a pharmaceutical composition containing a catecholic butane for treatment of the indicated diseases where the composition is formulated with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and other optional excipients, wherein the carrier comprises at least one of a solubilizing agent and an excipient selected from the group consisting of (a) a water-soluble organic solvent; (b) a ionic, non-ionic or amphipathic surfactant, (d) a modified cellulose; (e) a water-insoluble lipid; and a combination of any of the carriers (a)-(e).

The water-soluble organic solvent may be preferably, but not necessarily, other than dimethyl sulfoxide. Non-limiting exemplary water-soluble organic solvents include polyethylene glycol ("PEG"), for example, PEG 300, PEG 400 or PEG 400 monolaurate, propylene glycol ("PG"), polyvinyl pyrrolidone ("PVP"), ethanol, benzyl alcohol or dimethylacetamide.

The cyclodextrin or modified cyclodextrin may be, without limitation, α -cyclodextrin, β -cyclodextrin, γ -cyclodextrin, HP- β -CD or SBE- β -CD.

The ionic, non-ionic or amphipathic surfactant may include, for example without limitation, a surfactant such as polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate (also known as polysorbate); which is a non-ionic surfactant, for example, polysorbate 20 and polysorbate 80, commercially available as Tween® 20 or Tween® 80, d- α -tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate ("TPGS"), glycerol monooleate (also known as glyceryl monooleate), an esterified fatty acid or a reaction product between ethylene oxide and castor oil in a molar ratio of 35:1, commercially available as Cremophor® EL. Preferably, for certain embodiments, when the surfactant is a non-ionic surfactant, the non-ionic surfactant is present in the absence of xanthan gum.

Non-limiting examples of a modified cellulose include ethyl cellulose ("EC"), hydroxypropyl methylcellulose ("HPMC"), methylcellulose ("MC") or carboxy methylcellulose ("CMC"). In one embodiment of the invention, the catecholic butane may be solubilized in modified celluloses that can be diluted in ethanol ("EtOH") prior to use.

The water-insoluble lipids include, for example, an oil or oils, such as castor oil, sesame oil or peppermint oil, a wax or waxes, such as beeswax or carnauba wax, and mixed fat emulsion compositions such as Intralipid® (Pharmacia & Upjohn, now Pfizer), used as per the manufacturer's recommendation. For example, adult dosage is recommended to be not exceed-

ing 2 g of fat/kg body weight/day (20 mL, 10 mL and 6.7 mL/kg of Intralipid® 10%, 20% and 30%, respectively). Intralipid® 10% is believed to contain in 1,000 mL: purified soybean oil 100 g, purified egg phospholipids 12 g, glycerol anhydrous 22 g, water for injection q.s. ad 1,000 mL. pH is adjusted with sodium hydroxide to pH approximately 8. Intralipid® 20% contains in 1,000 mL: purified soybean oil 200 g, purified egg phospholipids 12 g, glycerol anhydrous 22 g, water for injection q.s. ad 1,000 mL. pH is adjusted with sodium hydroxide to pH approximately 8. Intralipid® 30% contains in 1,000 mL: purified soybean oil 300 g, purified egg phospholipids 12 g, glycerol anhydrous 16.7 g, water for injection q.s. ad 1,000 mL. pH is adjusted with sodium hydroxide to pH approximately 7.5. These Intralipid® products are stored at controlled room temperature below 25° C. and should not be frozen.

In one embodiment of the invention, the NDGA derivative is dissolved or dissolved and diluted in different carriers to form a liquid composition for oral administration into animals, including humans. For example, in one aspect of this embodiment, the NDGA derivative is dissolved in a water-soluble organic solvent such as a PEG 300, PEG 400 or a PEG 400 monolaurate (the "PEG compounds") or in PG. In another embodiment, the NDGA derivative is dissolved in a modified cyclodextrin, such as HP- β -CD or SBE- β -CD. In yet another embodiment, the present NDGA derivative is solubilized and/or diluted in a combination formulation containing a PEG compound and HP- β -CD. In a further embodiment, the NDGA derivative herein is dissolved in a modified cellulose such as HPMC, CMC or EC. In yet another embodiment, the NDGA derivative herein is dissolved in another combination formulation containing both a modified cyclodextrin and modified cellulose, such as, for example, HP- β -CD and HPMC or HP- β -CD and CMC.

In yet another embodiment, the NDGA derivative is dissolved in ionic, non-ionic or amphipathic surfactants such as Tween® 20, Tween® 80, TPGS or an esterified fatty acid. For example, the present compounds can be dissolved in TPGS alone, or Tween® 20 alone, or in combinations such as TPGS and PEG 400, or Tween® 20 and PEG 400.

In a further embodiment, the present NDGA derivative is dissolved in a water-insoluble lipid such as a wax, fat emulsion, for example Intralipid®, or oil. For example, the present compounds can be dissolved in peppermint oil alone, or in combinations of peppermint oil with Tween® 20 and PEG 400, or peppermint oil with PEG 400, or peppermint oil with Tween® 20, or peppermint oil with sesame oil.

EC may be substituted or added in place of the HPMC or CMC in the foregoing examples; PEG 300 or PEG 400 monolaurate can be substituted or added in place of PEG 400 in the foregoing examples; Tween® 80 may be substituted or added in place of Tween® 20 in the foregoing examples; and other oils such as corn oil, olive oil, soybean oil, mineral oil or glycerol, may be substituted or added in place of the peppermint oil or sesame oil in the foregoing examples.

Further, heating may be applied, for example, heating to a temperature of about 30° C. to about 90° C., in the course of formulating any of these compositions to achieve dissolution of the compounds herein or to obtain an evenly distributed suspension of the NDGA derivative.

In still a further embodiment, the NDGA derivative may be administered orally as a solid, either without any accompanying carrier or with the use of carriers. In one embodiment, the NDGA derivative is first dissolved in a liquid carrier as in the foregoing examples, and subsequently made into a solid composition for administration as an oral composition. For example, the NDGA derivative is dissolved in a modified cyclodextrin such as HP- β -CD, and the composition is lyophilized to yield a powder that is suitable for oral administration.

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In a further embodiment, the NDGA derivative is dissolved or suspended in a TPGS solution, with heating as appropriate to obtain an evenly distributed solution or suspension. Upon cooling, the composition becomes creamy and is suitable for oral administration.

In yet another embodiment, the NDGA derivative is dissolved in oil and beeswax is added to produce a waxy solid composition.

In general, in preparing the oral formulations, the NDGA derivative herein is first solubilized before other excipients are added so as to produce compositions of higher stability. Unstable formulations are not desirable. Unstable liquid formulations frequently form crystalline precipitates or biphasic solutions. Unstable solid formulations frequently appear grainy and clumpy and sometimes contain runny liquids. An optimal solid formulation appears smooth, homogenous, and has a small melting temperature range. In general, the proportions of excipients in the formulation may influence stability. For example, too little stiffening agent such as beeswax may leave the formulation too runny for an elegant oral formulation.

Hence, in general, for the liquid formulations of the present invention, the excipients used should be good solvents of the NDGA derivative herein. In other words, the excipients should be able to dissolve the NDGA derivative without heating. The excipients should also be compatible with each other independent of the NDGA derivative such that they can form a stable solution, suspension or emulsion. Also, in general, for the solid formulations of the present invention, the excipients used should also be good solvents of the NDGA derivative to avoid clumps and non-uniform formulations. To avoid solid formulations that are too runny or heterogeneous in texture, which are undesirable, the excipients should be compatible with each other such that they form a smooth homogeneous solid, even in the absence of the NDGA derivative.

The present invention further relates to a method of producing the pharmaceutical composition of the present invention, the method involving making or providing the NDGA derivative preferably in a substantially purified form, combining the composition with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient, and formulating the composition in a manner that is compatible with the mode of desired administration.

The compounds and compositions of the present invention find use as therapeutic agents in situations, for example, where one wishes to provide a treatment to a subject who has a proliferative disease such as a malignant, premalignant or benign tumor, a viral disease, an inflammatory disease, a metabolic disease or a vascular disease.

The compounds and compositions of the present invention can be used to treat a variety of tumors and cancers, including, without limitation, hematological malignancies such as leukemia, for instance acute or chronic lymphoblastic leukemia, acute or chronic myeloid leukemia, acute or chronic lymphocytic leukemia, acute or chronic myelogenous leukemia, childhood acute leukemia, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hairy cell leukemia, malignant cutaneous T-cells, mycosis fungoides, non-malignant fibrous cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, lymphomatoid papulosis, T-cell rich cutaneous lymphoid hyperplasia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Hodgkin's lymphoma, bullous pemphigoid, discoid lupus erythematosus, lichen planus, adrenocortical carcinoma, anal cancer, bile duct cancer, bladder cancer, bone cancer, osteosarcoma/malignant fibrous histiocytoma, neurological tumors and malignancies such as neuroblastoma, glioblastoma, astrocytoma, gliomas, brain stem glioma, brain tumor ependymoma, medulloblastoma, female and male breast cancer, carcinoma tumor gastrointestinal, carcinoma adrenocortical, carcinoma islet cell, clear cell cancer, clear cell sarcoma of tendon sheaths, colon cancer, colorectal cancer, cutaneous T-cell

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lymphoma, endometrial cancer, esophageal cancer, Ewing's family of tumors, extragonadal germ cell tumor, extrahepatic bile duct cancer, eye cancer, intraocular melanoma, ductal cancer, eye cancer retinoblastoma, dysplastic oral mucosa, invasive oral tumor, gallbladder cancer, gastric (stomach) cancer, gastrointestinal carcinoid tumor, germ cell tumor extragonadal, germ cell tumor, gestational trophoblastic tumor, hepatocellular (liver) cancer, hypopharyngeal cancer, intraocular melanoma, islet cell carcinoma (endocrine pancreas), Kaposi's sarcoma, laryngeal cancer, liver cancer, lung tumors and cancers such as non-small cell lung cancer and small cell lung cancer, malignant mesothelioma, melanoma, merkel cell carcinoma, multiple endocrine neoplasia syndrome, mycosis fungoides, multiple myeloma, nasal cavity tumors, paranasal and sinus cancer, nasopharyngeal cancer, oral cavity and lip cancer, oropharyngeal cancer, pancreatic cancer, parathyroid cancer, penile cancer, pheochromocytoma, pineal and supratentorial primitive neuroectodermal tumors, pituitary tumor, pleuropulmonary blastoma, prostate cancer, rectal cancer, renal, pelvis and ureter transitional cell cancer, retinoblastoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, salivary gland cancer, sarcoma soft tissue adult, Sezary syndrome, skin cancer, small intestine cancer, testicular tumors and cancer, thymoma, thyroid cancer, urethral cancer, transitional and squamous cell urinary carcinoma, gynecological tumors and cancer such as cervical cancer, ovarian tumors and cancer, ovarian epithelial cancer, ovarian germ cell tumor, uterine cancer, endometrial cancer, vaginal cancer, vulvar cancer, Waldenström's macroglobulinemia, Wilms' tumor, liver tumors including hepatocellular carcinoma ("HCC") and tumors of the biliary duct, other lung tumors including small cell and clear cell cancers, sarcomas in different organs; as well as other cancers and tumors.

Non limiting examples of viral diseases that may be treated effectively by the NDGA derivatives of the present invention, include for example and without limitation viral infections caused by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), human papillomaviruses (HPV)(all subtypes), herpes simplex virus 1 and 2 (HSV-1 and HSV-2), Varicella Zoster virus, cytomegalovirus, Epstein Barr virus, pox viruses (smallpox, cowpox, monkeypox, vaccinia), orthohepadnavirus, JC virus, and BK virus, among others.

Non-limiting examples of inflammatory diseases that may be treated effectively by the NDGA derivatives of the present invention include, for instance and without limitation, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, psoriasis, sarcoidosis, systemic lupus erythematosus, Stills disease, cystic fibrosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and inflammatory bowel diseases such as ulcerative colitis and Crohns, among others.

Non-limiting examples of metabolic diseases that may be treated effectively by the NDGA derivatives of the present invention include, for instance, diabetes mellitus (juvenile onset and adult onset), diabetes insipidus, syndrome X, hyperlipidemia, hypercholesterolemia, hypoglycemia, atheroma, ketoacidosis, Addisons disease, Cushings syndrome, hyperparathyroidism, hyperthyroidism, leucodystrophy and porphyria, among others.

Non-limiting examples of vascular diseases that may be treated effectively by the NDGA derivatives of the present invention include, for instance and without limitation, arterial hypertension, pulmonary arterial hypertension, cardiovascular disease and macular degeneration, among others.

As mentioned above, an effective amount of the NDGA derivative is administered to the host, where "effective amount" means a dosage sufficient to produce a desired result. In some embodiments, the desired result is at least a reduction in one or more symptoms of the viral infection or the inflammatory, metabolic, proliferative or vascular disease. Typically, the compositions of the present invention will

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contain from less than about 0.1% up to about 99% of the active ingredient, that is, the NDGA derivative of the present invention; optionally, the present invention will contain about 5% to about 90% of the active ingredient. The appropriate dose to be administered depends on the subject to be treated, such as the general health of the subject, the age of the subject, the state of the disease or condition, the weight of the subject, for example. Generally, about 0.1 mg to about 500 mg may be administered to a child and about 0.1 mg to about 5 grams may be administered to an adult. The NDGA derivative can be administered in a single or, more typically, multiple doses as frequently and over such a time period as needed to treat the disease. Preferred dosages for a given agent are readily determinable by those of skill in the art by a variety of means in view of the present disclosure. Other effective dosages can be readily determined by one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the present disclosure through routine trials establishing dose response curves. The amount of NDGA derivative will, of course, vary depending upon the particular NDGA derivative used, as well as the nature of the formulation containing the NDGA derivative, and the route of administration, the size and condition of the subject, the nature and extent of the disease, etc.

The frequency of administration of the NDGA derivative, as with the doses, will be determined by the care giver based on age, weight, disease status, health status and patient responsiveness. Thus, the agents may be administered one or more times daily or as appropriate for as long as needed as conventionally determined.

Kits with multiple or unit doses of the NDGA derivative are included in the present invention. In such kits, in addition to the containers containing the multiple or unit doses of the compositions containing the NDGA derivative will be instructions for its use for a given indication such as an informational sheet or package insert with instructions describing the use and attendant benefits of the drugs in treating the pathological condition of interest, such as any of a number of inflammatory, metabolic, vascular or proliferative diseases or a viral infection.

The present invention will now be described in greater detail with reference to the following specific, non-limiting working examples, except as noted where the examples are indicated as being prophetic.

General Procedure

All reactions were carried out in oven-dried glassware (120° C.) under an atmosphere of nitrogen, unless indicated otherwise. Acetone, dichloromethane, 1,4-dioxane, ethyl acetate, hexane, and tetrahydrofuran were purchased from Mallinckrodt Chemical Co. Acetone was dried with 4 Å molecular sieves and distilled. Dichloromethane, ethyl acetate, and hexane were dried and distilled from CaH₂. 1,4-Dioxane and tetrahydrofuran were dried by distillation from sodium and benzophenone under an atmosphere of nitrogen. Nordihydroguaiaretic acid was purchased from Fluka Chemical Co. 4-(2-Chloroethyl)morpholine hydrochloride, 4-(3-chloropropyl)morpholine hydrochloride, 1-(3-chloropropyl)piperidine monohydrochloride, 1-(2-chloroethyl)piperidine monohydrochloride, 2-chloroethanol, (2-chloroethoxy) ethene, 1-(2-chloroethyl)pyrrolidine hydrochloride, N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC), 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP), and potassium carbonate were purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co.

The melting point was obtained with a Büchi Labortechnik AG 535 melting-point apparatus. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on precoated plates (silica gel 60 F-254), purchased from Merck Inc. Gas chromatographic analyses were performed on a Hewlett-Packard 5890 Series II instrument equipped with a 25-m crosslinked methyl silicone gum capillary column (0.32 mm i.d.). Nitrogen gas was used as a carrier gas and the flow rate was kept constant

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at 14.0 mL/min. The retention time t_R was measured under the following conditions: injector temperature 260° C., isothermal column temperature 280° C. Gas chromatography and low resolution mass spectral analyses were performed on a Agilent Technology 6890N Network GC System equipped with a Agilent 5973 Network Mass Selective Detector and capillary HP-1 column. Purification by gravity column chromatography was carried out by use of Merck Reagents Silica Gel 60 (particle size 0.063-0.200 mm, 70-230 mesh ASTM). Purity of all compounds was >99.5%, as checked by HPLC or GC.

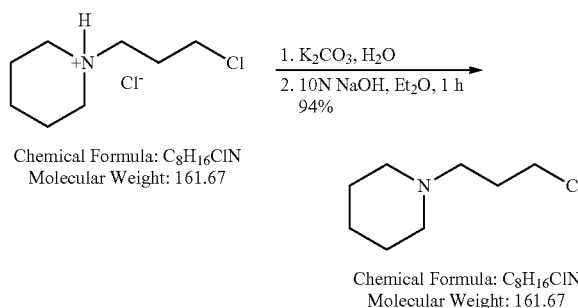
Ultraviolet (UV) spectra were measured on a Hitachi U3300 UV/VIS spectrophotometer. Infrared (IR) spectra were measured on a Jasco FT-IR-5300 Fourier transform infrared spectrometer. The wave numbers reported were referenced to the polystyrene 1601 cm⁻¹ absorption. Absorption intensities were recorded by the following abbreviations: s, strong; m, medium; w, weak. The fluorescent intensity was measured on a Hitach F-4500 Fluorescence Spectrophotometer. Proton NMR spectra were obtained on a Varian Mercury-400 (400 MHz) spectrometer by use of chloroform-d as the solvent and sodium 3-(trimethylsilyl)propionate as internal standard. Carbon-13 NMR spectra were obtained on a Varian Mercury-400 (100 MHz) spectrometer by use of chloroform-d or D₂O as the solvent. Carbon-13 chemical shifts were referenced to the center of the CDCl₃ triplet (δ 77.0 ppm). Multiplicities are recorded by the following abbreviations: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet; J, coupling constant (hertz). Height-resolution mass spectra were obtained by means of a JEOL JMS-HX110 mass spectrometer. Electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (ESI-MS) analyses were performed on a quadrupole ion trap mass analyzer fitted with an electrospray ionization source of Finnigan LCQ, Finnigan MAT.

Computation was performed on a Silicon Graphics O2+ workstation. Software Chemoffice Ultra 10.0 was used to draw chemical structures and synthetic schemes. The software PCModel 7.5 was used for energy minimized with the consistent valence force field (CVFF) until the maximum derivative was less than 1.0 kcal mol⁻¹ Å⁻¹.

Example 1

Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[3-(piperidin-1-yl)propoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane free base (C₅₀H₈₂N₄O₄, FW=803.21) "Compound A"; and tetrakis-hydrochloride salt (C₅₀H₈₆N₄O₄Cl₄, FW=949.05) "Compound B"

Step 1: Synthesis of N-(3-chloropropyl)-piperidine

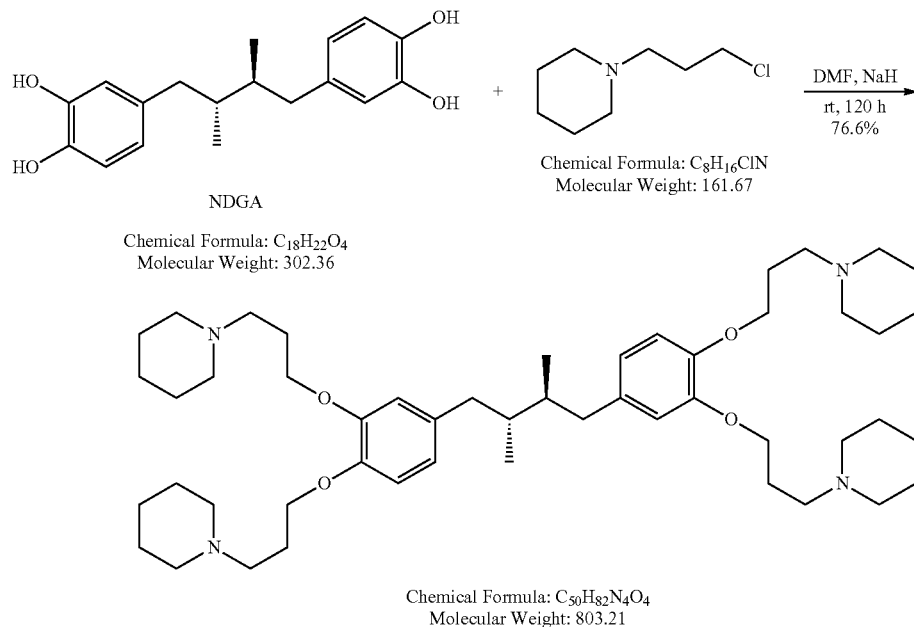


N-(3-Chloropropyl)-piperidine hydrochloride (97% purity from Aldrich Chemicals) (100 g) was dissolved in water (150 mL) and saturated aqueous potassium carbonate (250 mL) was slowly added to it. Also, 10N sodium hydroxide (25 mL) and diethyl ether (250 mL) were added and the mixture was

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stirred for one hour. The layers were separated; the organic layer was dried over anhydrous potassium carbonate and concentrated on a Büchi Labortechnik AG Rotavapor® evaporator to give the title compound (77.2 g, 94.4%), which was used without purification for the next reactions.

Step 2: Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[3-(piperidin-1-yl)propoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane
"Compound A"



To a solution of NDGA (15.0 g, 48.0 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (1 L) was added 60% suspension of sodium hydride in paraffin (10.4 g, 260 mmol, 5.4 equiv.) and the mixture was heated at 65° C. for one hour. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature, compound N-(3-chloropropyl)-piperidine (39.0 g, 241 mmols, 5.0 equiv.) and sodium iodide (7.2 g, 48 mmol, 1 equiv.) were added and the mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 120 hours. TLC indicated complete conversion to the product.

The workup of the reaction was carried out by slow addition of the reaction mixture to water (3 L) and diethyl ether (2.5 L). The aqueous layer was extracted again with diethyl ether (2 L). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (750 mL), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude was purified

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by silica gel column chromatography. The column was built using silica gel (500 g) and solvent mixture ethyl acetate:methanol:triethylamine (93:2:5) and eluted with the gradient ethyl acetate:methanol:triethylamine (93:2:5 to 91:4:5) to give the product as white solid (28.1 g, yield 76.6%). This product was crystallized from ethyl acetate:hexane mixture to give crystalline compound (22.5 g).

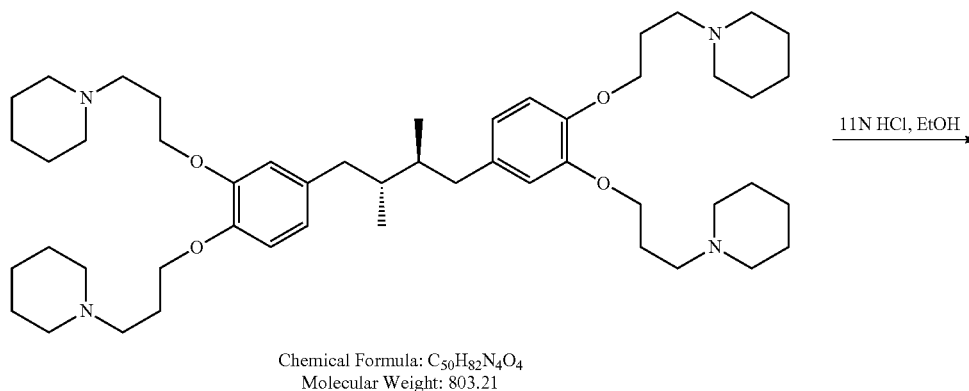
m.p. 84-86° C. HPLC purity—99.47%.

1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz), δ =0.81 (d, J =6.6 Hz, 6H), 1.35-1.50 (m, 8H), 1.53-1.65 (m, 16H), 1.67-1.80 (m, 2H), 1.90-2.2.03 (m, 8H), 2.40-2.60 (m, 26H), 2.72 (m, 2H), 3.99 (t, J =6.5 Hz, 4H), 4.00 (t, J =6.5 Hz, 4H), 6.65 (dd, J =1.9, 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (d, J =1.9 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (d, J =8.0 Hz, 2H); consistent with the structure.

^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz): δ =16.1, 24.5, 26.0, 27.0, 38.9, 39.4, 54.7, 56.2, 67.8, 68.0, 114.1, 115.2, 121.3, 134.9, 147.0, 148.8; consistent with the structure.

Analysis: Calculated for $C_{50}H_{82}N_4O_4$ C, 74.76; H, 10.29; N, 6.98. Found C, 75.07; H, 10.59; N, 6.91.

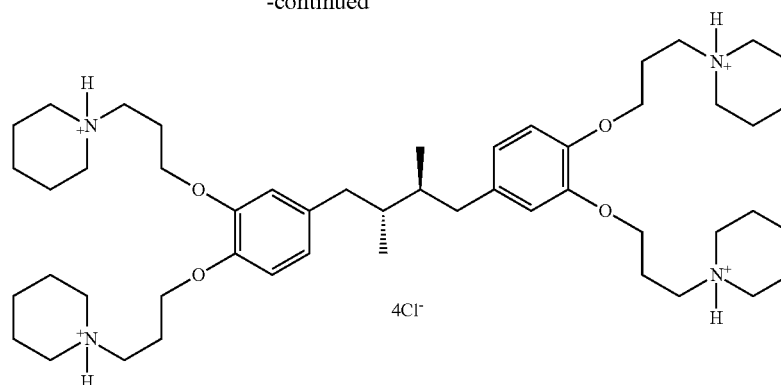
Step 3: Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[3-(piperidin-1-yl)propoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane tetrakis-hydrochloride salt "Compound B"



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-continued

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Chemical Formula: $C_{50}H_{86}Cl_4N_4O_4$
Molecular Weight: 949.05

To an ice cooled (0-5° C.) solution of aqueous concentrated HCl (7.2 mL of 11 N HCl, 79 mmol, 24 mole equiv.) in 95% ethanol (21 mL) was added drop-wise a solution of 1,4-bis{3, 4-bis[3-(piperidin-1-yl)propoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R, 3S)-butane (2.658, 3.30 mmols) in 95% ethanol (21 mL). The solution was allowed to stir at 0-5° C. for three hours and the solvent was removed on a rotary evaporator while keeping the temperature of the water bath at 45° C. The hydrochloride salt was dried under high vacuum for 48 hours. The crude product was crystallized from ethanol:ether to give 2.20 g of the product (70.3% yield) after drying under high vacuum for 72 hours. The analytical data for this product are given below.

m.p. 265-270° C. (dec.)

HPLC purity: 99.2% (% peak area); Moisture content by Karl Fisher method: 2.3938%. Elemental Analysis— $C_{50}H_{86}N_4O_4Cl_4$, calculated: C, 63.27; H, 9.13; N, 5.90. Found: C, 63.60; H, 9.59; N, 5.73. Chlorine elemental analysis by titration method (anhydrous basis): theory: 14.94%. found: 14.97% (100.3% of the theory).

1H -NMR (D_2O , 300 MHz): δ =0.65-0.80 (ss, 6H), 1.40-2.0 (m, 26H), 2.10-2.15 (m, 8H), 2.18-2.24 (m, 2H), 2.56-2.61 (m, 2H), 2.70-3.05 (m, 8H), 3.05-3.20 (m, 8H), 3.20-3.60 (m, 8H), 4.05 (t, J=4.2 Hz, 8H), 6.71 (dd, J=1.8, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, J=1.8 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, J=8.4 Hz, 2H).

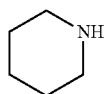
^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz) δ =16.0 (CH_3), 23.4 (CH_2), 24.5 (CH_2), 27.5 (CH_2), 38.8 (Ar- CH_2), 39.4 (CH), 54.6 (NCH $_2$), 54.9 (NCH $_2$), 68.1 (OCH $_2$), 113.4 (Ar), 114.1 (Ar), 121.4 (Ar), 135.0 (Ar), 146.8 (Ar), 148.5 (Ar) ppm; consistent with structure.

LC-MS, m/e=839 (M+K), 803 (M+) consistent with free base $C_{50}H_{82}N_4O_4$.

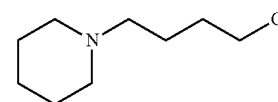
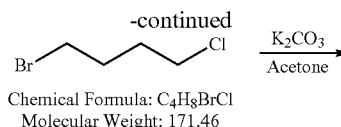
Example 2

Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[4-(N-piperidino)butoxyl]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane free base ($C_{54}H_{90}O_4N_4$, FW=859.32)—“Compound C”; and tetrakis-hydrochloride salt ($C_{54}H_{90}O_4N_4 \cdot 4Cl$, FW=1005.16)—“Compound D”

Step 1: Synthesis of N-(4-chlorobutyl)piperidine



Chemical Formula: $C_9H_{17}N$
Molecular Weight: 85.15



Chemical Formula: $C_9H_{17}N$
Molecular Weight: 85.15

In a 2 L three-necked round bottomed flask was added piperidine (85.15 g, 1.0 mol) acetone (1000 mL), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (276.42 g, 2.0 mol, 2.0 equiv.). The flask was equipped with a mechanical stirrer and a condenser. 4-chloro-1-bromo-butane (188.6 g, 1.1 mol, 1.1 equiv.) was added dropwise under continuous stirring at room temperature over a period of 30 min. The suspension mixture was then stirred at 40° C. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC, which confirmed the reaction was completed after 4 hours. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and the insoluble materials were removed by filtration and washed with dichloromethane (2x100 mL). The combined filtrates were concentrated under vacuum until it became dry. The residue was then mixed with dichloromethane (500 mL). Insoluble materials were removed by filtration and washed with dichloromethane (2x100 mL). The combined filtrate and washings were concentrated and purified through a flash silica gel column, which gave the expected product as light yellow oil (98.39 g, 56% yield).

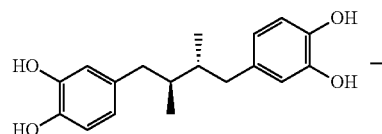
1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz), δ =1.37 (m, 2H, CH_2), 1.60 (m, 8H, 4 CH_2), 2.46 (t, J=6.5 Hz, 4H, 2 CH_2 N), 2.89 (t, J=6.8 Hz, 2H, CH_2 N), 3.56 (t, J=7.2 Hz, CH_2Cl) ppm; consistent with the structure.

^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz), δ =24.5, 25.1, 25.5, 26.1, 44.1 (CH_2NCl), 53.1 (CH_2N), 55.4 (CH_2N) ppm; consistent with the structure.

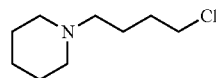
MS (EI), m/e=176 (M+1); consistent with the structure.

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Step 2: Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[4-(N-piperidino) butoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane
"Compound C"

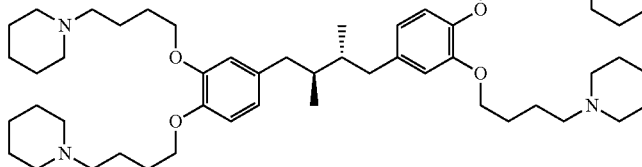


Chemical Formula: $C_{18}H_{22}O_4$
Molecular Weight: 302.36



Chemical Formula: $C_9H_{18}ClN$
Molecular Weight: 175.70

LiOH, t-BuOH
50° C., 20 h, 41%



Chemical Formula: $C_{54}H_{90}N_4O_4$
Molecular Weight: 859.32

To a solution containing nordihydroguaiaretic acid (NDGA, 602 mg, 2.0 mmol) and lithium hydroxide monohydrate (1.0 g, 24.0 mmol, 12 equiv.) in tert-butanol (100 mL) was added N-(4-chlorobutyl)piperidine (2.11 g, 12.0 mmol, 6.0 equiv.). The solution was heated at 50° C. under continuous stirring. The reaction was monitored by TLC(CH_2Cl_2 : MeOH:Et₃N=95(3:2, V/V/V), which confirmed the reaction was completed after 20 hours. The reaction suspension was cooled to room temperature, and partitioned with dichloromethane (200 mL) and water (100 mL). The mixture was shaken to mix well. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane (2x100 mL). The organic layer and extracts were combined and washed with aqueous saturated sodium bicarbonate (100 mL), and brine (10 mL). After drying over anhydrous sodium sulfate, the solution was concentrated under reduced vacuum. The residue was purified through a silica gel column using dichloromethane, methanol and triethylamine (95:3:2, V/V/V/

V) as an eluent, which gave the expected product as a white semi-solid material (704.6 mg, yield 41%).
HPLC purity—98.5%.

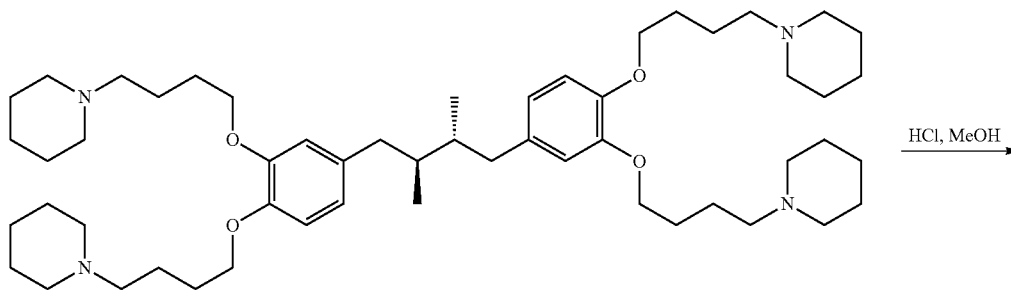
26

¹H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz), δ =0.81 (d, J=6.6 Hz, 6H, 2 CH₃), 1.35-1.50 (m, 8H, 4CH₂), 1.53-1.65 (m, 24H, 12 CH₂), 1.67-1.80 (m, 2H), 1.90-2.2.03 (m, 8H), 2.40-2.60 (m, 26H), 2.72 (m, 2H), 3.99 (t, J=6.5 Hz, 4H), 4.00 (t, J=6.5 Hz, 4H), 6.65 (dd, J=1.9, 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (d, J=1.9 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (d, J=8.0 Hz, 2H) ppm; consistent with the structure.

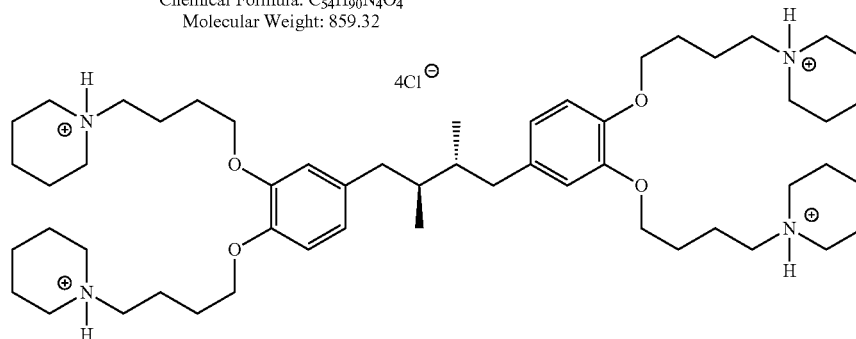
¹³C NMR ($CDCl_3$) 16.1, 24.5, 25.4, 26.0, 27.0, 38.9, 39.4, 54.7, 56.2, 67.8, 68.0, 114.1, 115.2, 121.3, 134.9, 147.0, 148.8 ppm; consistent with the structure.

Analysis: Calculated for $C_{54}H_{90}N_4O_4$ (859.32) C, 75.48; H, 10.56; N, 6.52. Found C, 75.07; H, 10.59; N, 6.91; consistent with the structure.

Step 3: Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[4-(N-piperidino) butoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane tetrahydrochloride salt "Compound D"



Chemical Formula: $C_{54}H_{90}N_4O_4$
Molecular Weight: 859.32



Chemical Formula: $C_{54}H_{94}Cl_4N_4O_4$
Molecular Weight: 1005.18

27

To an ice cooled (0-5° C.) solution of aqueous concentrated HCl (2.2 mL of 11 N HCl, 24 mmol, 24 mole equiv.) in 95% ethanol (7 mL) was added drop-wise a solution of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[4-(piperidin-1-yl)butoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane (859.32 mg, 1.0 mmols) in 95% ethanol (7 mL). The solution was allowed to stir at 0-5° C. for three hours and the solvent was removed on rotary evaporator while keeping the temperature of the water bath at 45° C. The hydrochloride salt was dried under high vacuum for 48 hours. The crude product was then crystallized from ethanol:ether to give 736.9 mg of the product (73.3% yield) after drying under high vacuum for 72 hours. The analytical data for this product are given below.

m.p. 225-230° C. (dec.).

HPLC purity: 99.2% (% peak area). Elemental Analysis— $C_{54}H_{90}O_4N_4 \cdot 4HCl$, FW=1005.16, calculated: C, 64.53; H, 9.43; N, 5.57. Found: C, 64.23; H, 9.21; N, 5.43. Chlorine elemental analysis by titration method (anhydrous basis): theory: 14.11%. found: 14.21% (100.7% of the theory).

1H -NMR (D_2O , 400 MHz): δ =0.76 (d, J=6.4 Hz, 6H, 2 \times CH₃), 1.28-1.37 (m, 8H), 1.36-1.46 (m, 8H, 4 \times piperidine CH₂), 1.43-2.56 (m, 16H, 8 \times piperidine CH₂), 1.55-1.68 (m, 2H, 2 \times CH), 2.36-2.51 (m, 16H, 8 \times piperidine CH₂N), 2.64 (dd, J=13.2, 1.2 Hz, 2H, 2 \times ArCH), 2.71 (t, J=6.0 Hz, 8H, 4 \times CH₂N), 4.03 (t, 8H, 4 \times CH₂O), 6.60-6.75 (m, 6H, 6 \times ArH) ppm; consistent with structure.

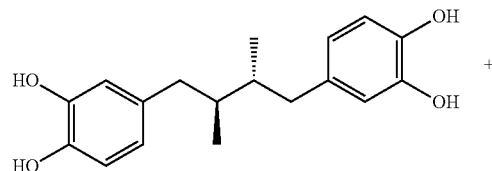
^{13}C NMR (D_2O , 100 MHz): δ =15.93, 23.85, 24.00, 25.06, 25.72, 38.92, 39.31, 54.87, 54.97, 57.87, 67.13, 67.28, 113.90, 114.96, 121.38, 134.71, 146.75, 148.48 ppm; consistent with structure.

MS (EI), m/e=859 (M⁺), consistent with free base $C_{54}H_{90}N_4O_4$.

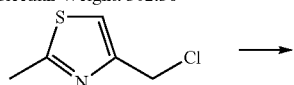
Example 3

Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl-methoxy)phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane free base ($C_{38}H_{46}N_4O_4S_4$, FW=747.02) "Compound E"; tetrakis-hydrochloride salt ($C_{38}H_{46}N_4O_4S_4 \cdot 4HCl$, FW=892.87) "Compound F"

Step 1: Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl-methoxy)phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane "Compound E"



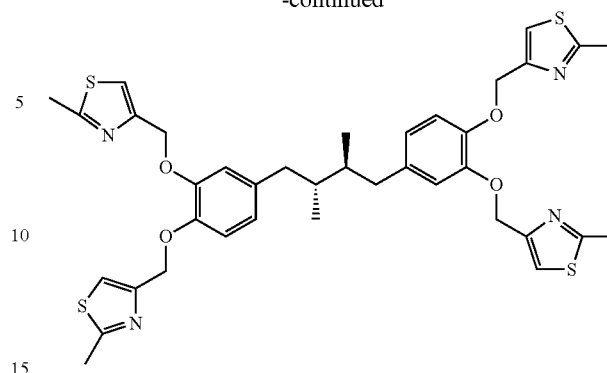
Chemical Formula: $C_{18}H_{22}O_4$
Molecular Weight: 302.36



Chemical Formula: C_5H_6ClNS
Molecular Weight: 147.63

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-continued



Chemical Formula: $C_{38}H_{42}N_4O_4S_4$
Molecular Weight: 747.02

Preparation of 4-chloromethyl-2-methylthiazole from its hydrochloride: 4-chloromethyl-2-methyl thiazole hydrochloride (25 g, 135 mmol) was added 50% aqueous potassium carbonate (100 mL) and ether (400 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 min. The organic layer was separated, dried over anhydrous potassium carbonate, and concentrated to dryness under reduced vacuum (30-40 mm Hg) at 25° C. The residue was dried under high vacuum (0.1-0.5 mm Hg) overnight at room temperature to give 4-chloromethyl-2-methylthiazole (20 g, 99.5% yield).

Preparation of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl-methoxy)phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane: To an ice-cooled solution of NDGA (1.50 g, 4.96 mol) in DMF (50 mL) was added 60% suspension of sodium hydride in paraffin (1.98 g=1.19 g NaH, 49.6 mmol, 10 mole equiv.). The mixture was stirred at 0° C. for 30 min. and at room temperature for 30 min. Then a solution of 4-chloromethyl-2-methylthiazole (5.86 g, 39.69 mmol, 8.0 mole equiv.) in DMF (20 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 16 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was added to the saturated aqueous ammonium chloride (300 mL) and ether (600 mL). After shaking, the organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ether (2 \times 200 mL). The combined organic layer and extracts were washed with water (100 mL), brine (100 mL), and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated to dryness under reduced vacuum (30-40 mm Hg) at 25° C. The residue was dissolved in a minimum amount of dichloromethane and purified by silica gel flash chromatographic column using hexane:ethyl acetate (50:50 to 0:100) as eluant to give expected product as white solid (1.56 g, 42.09% yield). It was further purified by crystallization from acetate-hexane.

Mp 85-87° C., HPLC purity: 98.9%.

1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ =0.84 (d, J=6.4 Hz, 6H, 2 \times CH₃), 2.01 (m, 2H, 2 \times CH), 2.65-2.70 (m, 4H, 2 \times Ar-CH₂), 2.81 (s, 6H, 2 \times CH₃), 5.23 (d, J=20.7 Hz, 8H, 4 \times OCH₂), 6.70-6.84 (m, 6H, 6 \times Ar-H), 7.07 (s, 4H, 4-Ar-H) ppm; consistent with structure.

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ =16.5 (CH₃), 19.5 (CH₃), 38.6 (Ar-CH₂), 39.4 (CH), 72.6 (OCH₂), 112.1 (Ar), 113.8 (Ar), 115.4 (Ar), 122.8 (Ar), 131.1 (Ar), 135.0 (Ar), 147.4 (Ar), 149.5 (Ar), 159.8 (Ar), 165.3 (Ar) ppm; consistent with structure.

LC-MS, m/e=770 (M+Na⁺), 747 (M⁺).

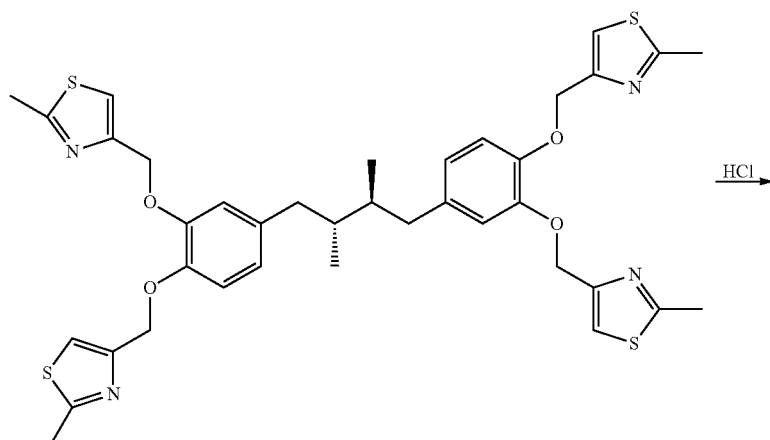
Analysis: calculated for $C_{38}H_{42}N_4O_4S_4$, FW=747.02; C, 61.10; H, 5.67; N, 7.50. Found C, 60.86; H, 5.86; N, 7.31.

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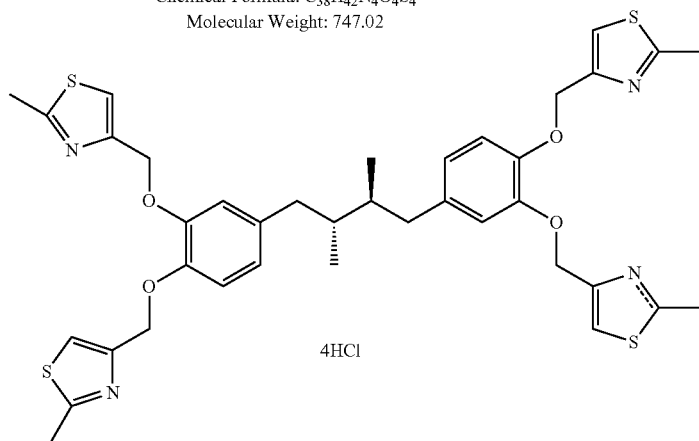
Step 2: Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl-methoxy)phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane tetrakis-hydrochloride salt "Compound F"

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Analysis: calculated for $C_{38}H_{42}N_4O_4S_4 \cdot 4HCl$, FW=892.87; C, 51.12; H, 5.19; N, 6.27. Found C, 50.86; H, 5.06; N, 6.01.



Chemical Formula: $C_{38}H_{42}N_4O_4S_4$
Molecular Weight: 747.02



Chemical Formula: $C_{38}H_{40}Cl_4N_4O_4S_4$
Molecular Weight: 892.87

To a solution of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl-methoxy)phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane (0.50 g, 0.6 mmol) in acetone (20 mL), hydrochloride gas was slowly bubbled through the solution at room temperature for 10 min. under continuous stirring. The precipitates were collected by suction filtration. The collected materials were dissolved in a minimum amount of methanol and precipitated by anhydrous ether. The solid material was then collected by suction filtration, and dried under vacuum overnight to give 0.51 g (85% yield) of the expected tetrakis-hydrochloride salt as a white solid.

m.p. 91-92° C. HPLC purity: 98.9% (peak area purity)

1H NMR (300 MHz, methanol- d_4): δ =0.74 (d, J=6.4 Hz, 6H, 2 \times CH₃), 2.11 (m, 2H, 2 \times CH), 2.55-2.60 (m, 4H, 2 \times Ar-CH₂), 2.75 (s, 6H, 2 \times CH₃), 5.28 (d, J=20.7 Hz, 8H, 4 \times OCH₂), 6.77-6.87 (m, 6H, 6 \times Ar-H), 7.09 (s, 4H, 4-Ar-H), 10.56 (brs, NH) ppm; consistent with structure.

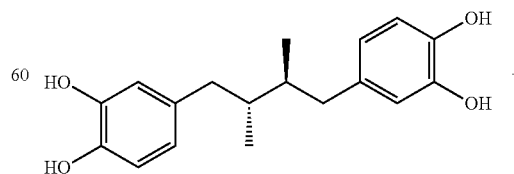
^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, methanol- d_4): δ =16.7 (CH₃), 19.5 (CH₃), 38.6 (Ar-CH₂), 39.4 (CH), 72.6 (OCH₂), 112.1 (Ar), 113.8 (Ar), 115.4 (Ar), 122.8 (Ar), 131.1 (Ar), 135.0 (Ar), 147.4 (Ar), 149.5 (Ar), 159.8 (Ar), 165.3 (Ar) ppm; consistent with structure.

LC-MS, m/e=770 (M+Na⁺), 747 (M⁺) consistent with structure of the parent compound.

Example 4

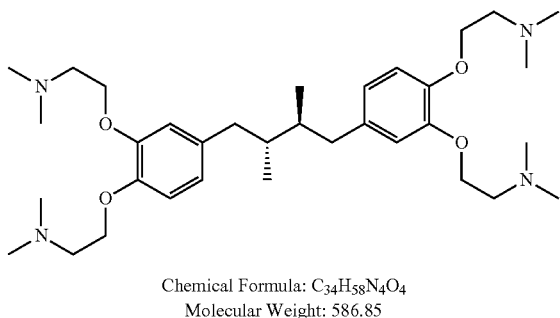
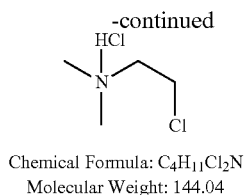
Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis(2-(N,N'-dimethylamino)-ethoxy)phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane free base ($C_{34}H_{58}N_4O_4$, FW=586.85) "Compound G"; tetrakis-hydrochloride salt ($C_{34}H_{58}N_4O_4 \cdot 4HCl$, FW=732.69) "Compound H"

Step 1: Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis(2-(N,N'-dimethylamino)-ethoxy)phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane "Compound G"



Chemical Formula: $C_{34}H_{58}N_4O_4$
Molecular Weight: 302.36

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To a solution of NGDA (1.50 g, 4.96 mmol) in acetone (150 mL) were added anhydrous potassium carbonate (6.84 g, 49.6 mmol, 10 mole equiv.), and N,N-dimethyl-N-(2-chloroethyl)amine hydrochloride (4.28 g, 29.7 mmol, 6 mole equiv.). The mixture was stirred under reflux for 12 hours. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC (dichloromethane:methanol=95:5, v:v), and showed a considerable amount of NDGA unreacted. Thus, additional anhydrous potassium carbonate (6.84 g, 49.6 mmol, 10 mole equiv.), and N,N-dimethyl-N-(2-chloroethyl)amine hydrochloride (4.28 g, 29.7 mmol, 6 mole equiv.) were added and the mixture was stirred at reflux for another 64 hours. TLC monitoring showed the reaction was complete. The mixture was cooled to room temperature. The insoluble materials were removed by suction filtration, and washed with acetone (2x50 mL). The filtrate and washings were combined and concentrated to dryness under reduced vacuum (30-40 mm Hg) at 25° C. The residue was dissolved in a minimum amount of dichloromethane. The insoluble materials were removed by suction filtration. The filtrate was purified by silica gel flash chromatographic column using gradient elution dichloromethane:methanol:triethylamine (from 94:1:5 to 85:10:5) to give the expected product as white solid (1.56 g, 53.6% yield). It was further purified by crystallization from acetate-hexane.

Mp 98-100° C., HPLC purity: 99.1% (peak area purity).

1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ =0.81 (d, J=6.4 Hz, 6H, 2xCH₃), 1.95 (m, 2H, 2xCH), 2.60-2.65 (m, 4H, 2xAr—CH₂), 2.72 (t, J=6.1 Hz, 8H, 4xNCH₂), 2.86 (s, 6H, 2xNCH₃), 4.08 (t, J=6.1 Hz, 8H, 4xOCH₂), 6.60-6.75 (m, 6H, 6xAr—H) ppm; consistent with structure.

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ =15.2 (CH₃), 36.6 (Ar—CH₂), 38.7 (CH), 45.5 (NCH₃), 56.7 (NCH₃), 65.4 (OCH₂), 112.8 (Ar), 114.4 (Ar), 121.8 (Ar), 132.8 (Ar), 146.4 (Ar), 147.5 (Ar) ppm; consistent with structure.

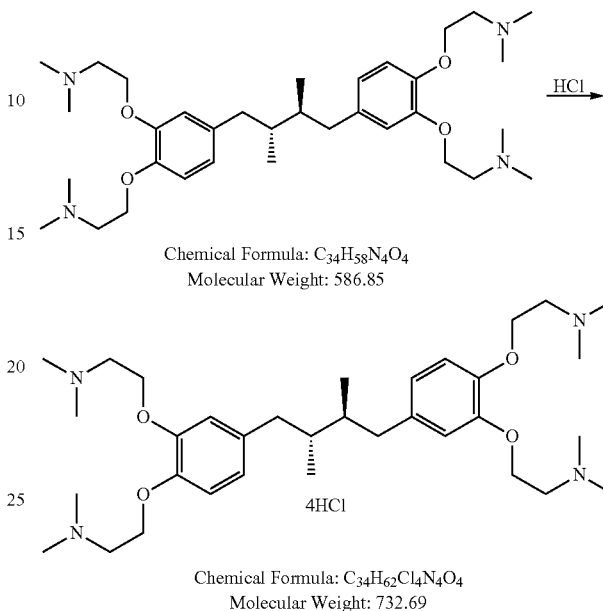
LC-MS, m/e=609 (M+Na⁺), 586 (M⁺); consistent with structure.

Analysis: calculated for $C_{34}H_{58}N_4O_4$, FW=586.85; C, 69.59; H, 9.96; N, 9.55. Found C, 69.86; H, 9.76; N, 9.31.

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Step 2: Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis(2-(N,N'-dimethylamino)-ethoxy)phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane tetrakis(hydrochloride) salt "Compound H"

5



To a solution of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis(2-(N,N'-dimethylamino)-ethoxy)phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane (0.50 g, 0.85 mmol) in acetone (20 mL), hydrochloride gas was slowly bubbled through the solution at room temperature for 10 min. under continuous stirring. The precipitates were collected by suction filtration. The collected materials were dissolved in a minimum amount of methanol and precipitated by anhydrous ether. The solid material was then collected by suction filtration, and dried under vacuum overnight to give 0.44 g (70% yield) of the expected tetrakis-hydrochloride salt as a white solid.

m.p. 78-80° C. HPLC purity: 99.2% (peak area purity).

1H NMR (300 MHz, methanol- d_4): δ =0.76 (d, J=6.4 Hz, 6H, 2xCH₃), 1.85 (m, 2H, 2xCH), 2.63-2.69 (m, 4H, 2xAr—CH₂), 2.75 (t, J=6.1 Hz, 8H, 4xNCH₂), 2.96 (s, 6H, 2xNCH₃), 4.01 (t, J=6.1 Hz, 8H, 4xOCH₂), 6.65-6.77 (m, 6H, 6xAr—H), 10.55 (br s, NH) ppm; consistent with structure.

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, methanol- d_4): δ =16.2 (CH₃), 35.6 (Ar—CH₂), 37.9 (CH), 46.6 (NCH₃), 55.9 (NCH₃), 64.7 (OCH₂), 112.5 (Ar), 115.4 (Ar), 122.8 (Ar), 131.7 (Ar), 145.4 (Ar), 146.5 (Ar) ppm; consistent with structure.

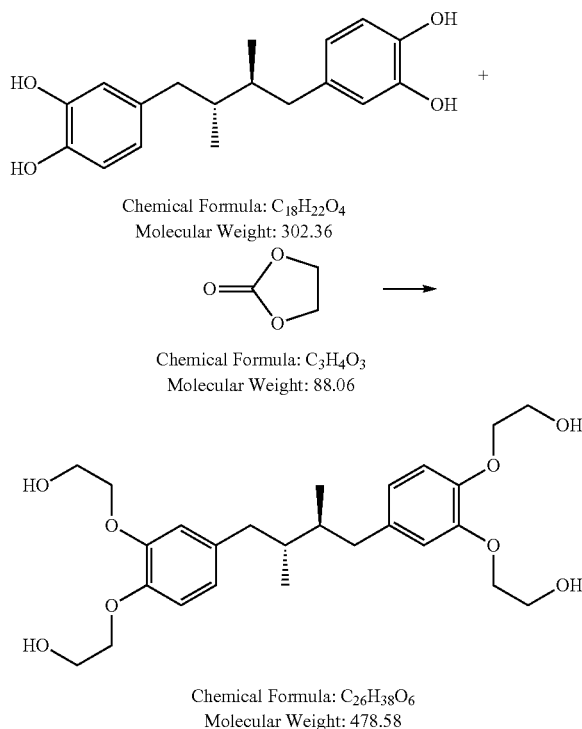
LC-MS, m/e=609 (M+Na⁺), 586 (M⁺) consistent with structure. Analysis: calculated for $C_{34}H_{58}N_4O_4 \cdot 4HCl$, FW=732.69; C, 55.73; H, 8.53; N, 7.65. Found C, 55.38; H, 8.36; N, 7.31.

Example 5

Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis(2-hydroxyethoxy)phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane free base ($C_{26}H_{38}O_8$, FW=478.58) "Compound I"

Method 1: (For similar synthetic procedures see: J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun. 1987, (3), 223-224; J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1981, 103, 2361)

33



To a solution of NDGA (2.0 g, 6.61 mmol) in anhydrous dimethyl formamide (DMF) (20 mL) were added ethylene carbonate (3.49 g, 39.69 mmol, 6.0 mole equiv.) and tetraethylammonium bromide (69 mg, 0.33 mmol, 0.05 mole equiv). The mixture was stirred at 140° C. The reaction was monitored by TLC (dichloromethane:methanol=9:1, V/V), which showed the reaction completed after 36 hours. DMF was then removed under reduced vacuum (20-30 mm Hg) at 80-90° C. to dryness. The residue was then taken up by dichloromethane (200 mL), and washed by aqueous sodium bicarbonate (50 mL), and brine (2×50 mL). After drying over anhydrous sodium sulfate, the solvent was removed under reduced vacuum (30-40 mm Hg) at 30-40° C. to dryness. The residue was dissolved in a minimum amount of dichloromethane and purified by silica gel flash chromatographic column using gradient elution of dichloromethane:methanol (from 10:0 to 9:1, V/V) to give the expected product, which was further purified by re-crystallization from dichloromethane-ether to give pure product 0.88 g (27.8% yield).

m.p. 120-122° C. with HPLC purity 99.4%.

1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ =0.73 (d, J =6.4 Hz, 6H, $2\times CH_3$), 1.85 (m, 2H, $2\times CH$), 2.35, 2.65 (mm, 4H, $2\times Ar-CH_2$), 3.74 (t, J =6.1 Hz, 8H, $4\times OCH_2$), 3.93 (t, J =6.1 Hz, 8H, $4\times OCH_2$), 6.56-6.72 (m, 6H, $6\times Ar-H$) ppm; consistent with structure.

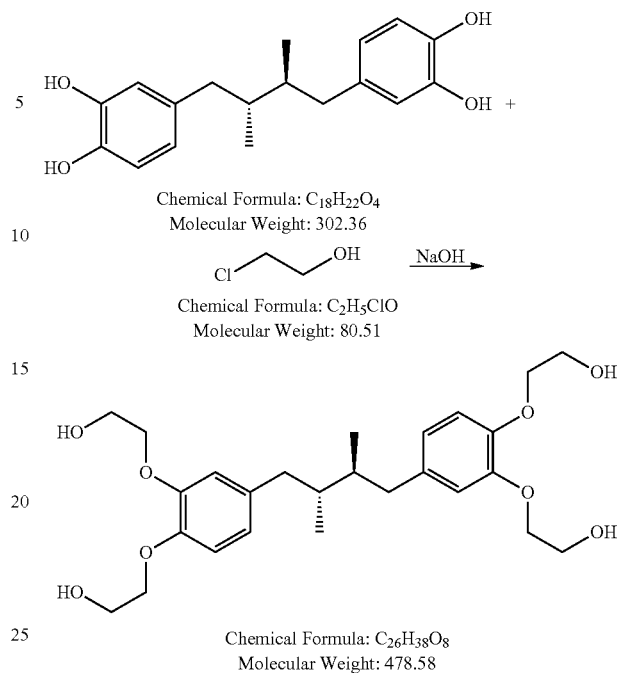
^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ =15.4 (CH_3), 35.2 ($Ar-CH_2$), 37.9 (CH), 61.8 (OCH_2), 68.7 (OCH_2), 112.3 (Ar), 115.4 (Ar), 122.9 (Ar), 132.8 (Ar), 146.4 (Ar), 148.1 (Ar) ppm; consistent with structure.

LC-MS, m/e =501 ($M+Na^+$), 478 (M^+); consistent with structure.

Analysis: calculated for $C_{26}H_{38}O_8$, FW=478.58; C, 65.25; H, 8.00. Found C, 65.01; H, 8.34.

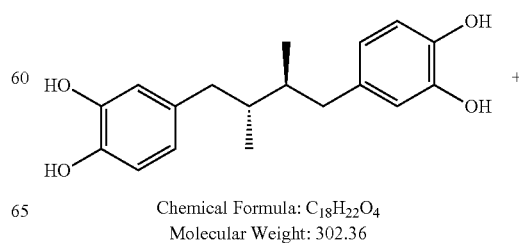
Method 2: (For similar synthetic procedures see Synth. Commun. 2002, 32(12), 1909-1915)

34



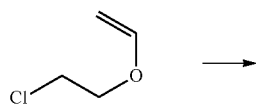
To a solution of NDGA (1.5 g, 4.96 mmol) in n-butanol (150 mL) were added a solution of sodium hydroxide (4.0 g, 99.20 mmol, 20 mole equiv.) in water (20 mL) and 2-chloroethanol (8.0 g, 99.22 mmol, 20 mole equiv.). The mixture was stirred under reflux. The reaction was monitored by TLC (dichloromethane:methanol, 9:1, V/V), and showed to be completed after 36 hours. The mixture was cooled to 0° C. and carefully neutralized to pH 7.0 by conc. hydrochloric acid. The mixture was concentrated under reduced vacuum (30-40 mm Hg) at 70-80° C. to dryness. The residue was mixed and stirred with ethyl acetate (200 mL). Insoluble materials were removed by filtration and washing with ethyl acetate (2×50 mL). The filtrate and washings were combined, washed with brine (2×100 mL). After drying over anhydrous sodium sulfate, the mixture was concentrated under reduced vacuum (30-40 mm Hg) at 30-40° C. to dr mess. The residue was then dissolved in a minimum amount of dichloromethane and purified by a silica gel flash chromatographic column using gradient elution dichloromethane:methanol (from 95:5 to 80:20, V/V) to give the expected compound as white solid, which was further purified by re-crystallization from dichloromethane-ether to give the pure product 1.32 g (55.6%), mp. 120-122° C. with HPLC purity 98.5%. Analytical data were identical with the sample from Method 1.

Method 3: (For similar experimental procedure see Bull. Korean Chem. Soc. 2004, 25(12), 1941-1944).

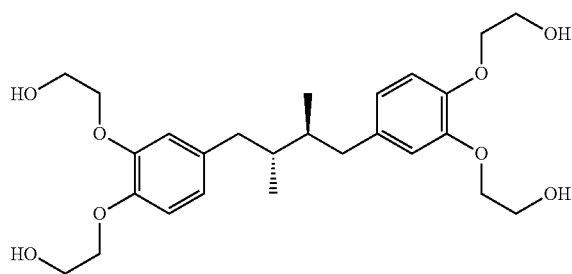


35

-continued



Chemical Formula: C_4H_7ClO
Molecular Weight: 106.55

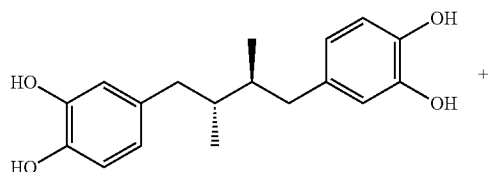


Chemical Formula: $C_{26}H_{38}O_8$
Molecular Weight: 478.58

To a solution of NDGA (1.5 g, 4.96 mmol) in DMF (150 mL) were added anhydrous potassium carbonate (13.70 g, 99.20 mmol, 20 mole equiv.) and (2-chloroethoxy)ethane (10.57 g, 99.22 mmol, 20 mole equiv.). The mixture was stirred at 130° C. The reaction was monitored by TLC (dichloromethane:methanol, 9:1, V/V), and showed to be completed after 48 hours. The mixture was concentrated under reduced vacuum (5-10 mm Hg) at 50-60° C. to dryness. The residue was mixed and stirred with ethyl acetate (200 mL). Insoluble materials were removed by filtration and washings were combined, washed with brine (2×100 mL). After drying over anhydrous sodium sulfate, the mixture was concentrated under reduced vacuum (30-40 mm Hg) at 30-40° C. to dryness. The residue was then dissolved in a minimum amount of dichloromethane and purified by a silica gel flash chromatographic column using gradient elution dichloromethane:methanol (from 95:5 to 80:20, V/V) to give the expected compound as white solid, which was further purified by re-crystallization from dichloromethane-ether to give the pure product 1.50 g (63.1% yield), mp. 120-122° C. with HPLC purity 98.5%. Analytical data were identical with the sample from Method 1.

Example 6

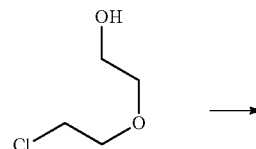
Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane free base ($C_{34}H_{54}N_4O_{12}$, FW=654.79) "Compound J"



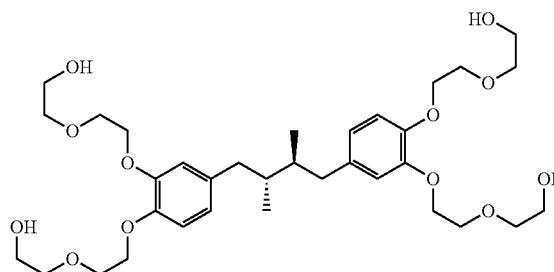
Chemical Formula: $C_{18}H_{22}O_4$
Molecular Weight: 302.36

36

-continued



Chemical Formula: $C_4H_9ClO_2$
Molecular Weight: 124.57



Chemical Formula: $C_{34}H_{54}O_{12}$
Molecular Weight: 654.79

To a solution of NDGA (1.5 g, 4.96 mmol) in DMF (150 mL) were added anhydrous potassium carbonate (13.70 g, 99.20 mmol, 20 mole equiv.) and (2-chloroethoxy)ethanol (12.36 g, 99.22 mmol, 20 mole equiv.). The mixture was stirred at 130° C. The reaction was monitored by TLC (dichloromethane:methanol, 9:1, V/V), and showed to be completed after 72 hours. The mixture was concentrated under reduced vacuum (5-10 mm Hg) at 50-60° C. to dryness. The residue was mixed and stirred with ethyl acetate (200 mL). Insoluble materials were removed by filtration and washings were combined, washed with brine (2×100 mL). After drying over anhydrous sodium sulfate, the mixture was concentrated under reduced vacuum (30-40 mm Hg) at 30-40° C. to dryness. The residue was then dissolved in a minimum amount of dichloromethane and purified by a silica gel flash chromatographic column using gradient elution dichloromethane:methanol (from 95:5 to 80:20, V/V) to give the expected compound, which was further purified by re-crystallization from dichloromethane-ether to give the pure product 1.25 g (38.5% yield) as a light-yellow semi-solid, with HPLC purity 98.5%.

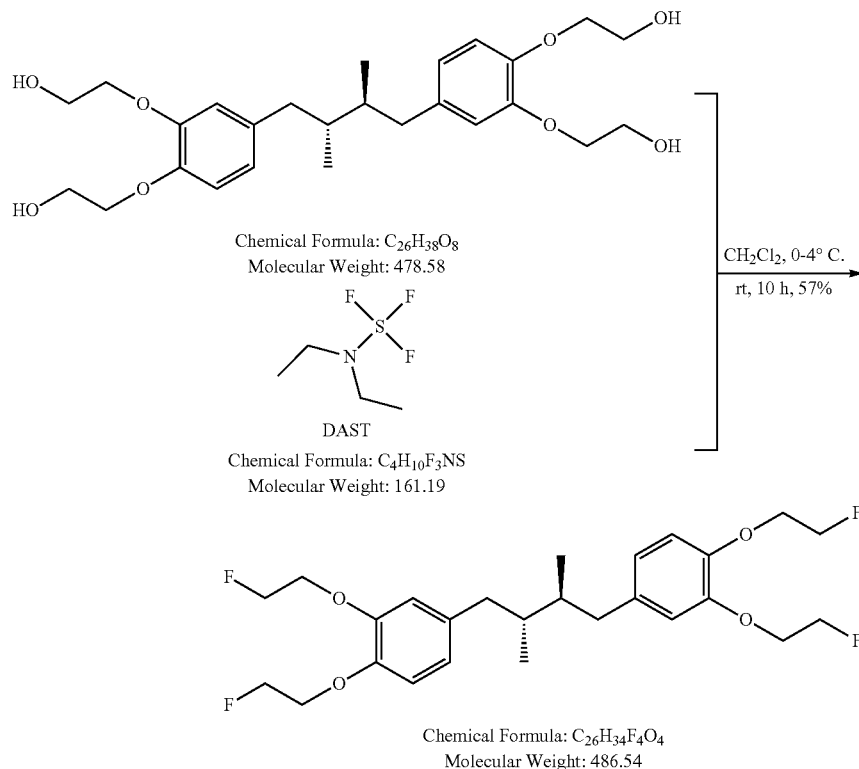
1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ =0.74 (d, J=6.4 Hz, 6H, 2×CH₃), 1.88 (m, 2H, 2×CH), 2.38, 2.68 (m, 4H, 2×Ar—CH₂), 3.60-4.01 (m, 32H, 16×OCH₂), 6.58-6.74 (m, 6H, 6×Ar—H) ppm; consistent with structure.

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ =15.4 (CH₃), 36.3 (Ar—CH₂), 38.5 (CH), 61.3 (OCH₂), 69.7 (OCH₂), 70.7 (OCH₂), 71.2 (OCH₂), 112.4 (Ar), 114.1 (Ar), 123.4 (Ar), 131.6 (Ar), 145.9 (Ar), 149.5 (Ar) ppm; consistent with structure.

LC-MS, m/e=677 (M+Na⁺), 672 (M+H₂O), 655 (M⁺); consistent with structure.

Analysis: calculated for $C_{34}H_{54}O_{12}$, FW=654.79; C, 62.37; H, 8.31. Found C, 62.01; H, 8.14.

Synthesis of 1,4-bis[3,4-bis(2-fluoroethoxy)phenyl]-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane
(C₂₅H₃₄O₄F₄, FW=486.54) "Compound K"



To a suspension of Compound I (479 mg, 1.0 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL) cooled in an ice water bath was added diethylaminosulfur trifluoride (DAST, 805 mg, 5 mmol). After the resulting yellowish solution was stirred at room temperature for 10 hours, it was quenched with saturated sodium bicarbonate (2 mL) under cooling. The organic layer was washed with saturated brine, dried over MgSO₄(s), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (10% methanol in dichloromethane as eluent) and the desired fraction was concentrated to give the expected compound as an off white solid (277 mg, 0.47 mmol) in 57% yield.

m.p. 98-102° C., HPLC purity: 97.5% (peak area purity).

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ=0.76 (d, J=6.4 Hz, 6H, 2×CH₃), 1.63-1.70 (m, 2H, 2×CH), 2.18 (dd, J=13 Hz, 2H, 2×ArCH), 2.76 (dd, J=13.2, 4.6 Hz, 2H, 2×ArCH), 4.09 (t, J=5.6 Hz, 8H, 4×CH₂O), 4.66 (m, J=47 Hz, 8H, 4×CH₂F), 6.55-6.72 (m, 6H, 6×ArH); consistent with expected structure.

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ=15.90, 38.68, 39.23, 64.23, 64.50, 66.49, 66.86, 113.75, 114.80, 121.56, 134.96, 146.63, 148.38; consistent with expected structure.

MS (EI) m/e: 486 (M⁺), 496 (M⁺), 525 (M+K); consistent with expected structure.

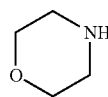
Analysis: calculated for C₂₅H₃₄O₄F₄, FW=486.54; C, 64.18; H, 7.04. Found, C, 63.95; H, 6.85.

Example 8

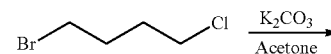
Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[4-(N-morpholino)butoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane free base (C₅₀H₈₂N₄O₈, FW=867.21) "Compound L"; tetraakis-hydrochloride salt

(C₅₄H₈₂N₄O₈·4HCl, FW=1013.05) "Compound M"

Step 1: Synthesis of N-(4-chlorobutyl)morphine



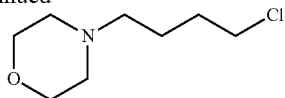
Chemical Formula: C₄H₉NO
Molecular Weight: 87.12



Chemical Formula: C₄H₉BrCl
Molecular Weight: 171.46

39

-continued



Chemical Formula: $C_8H_{16}ClNO$
Molecular Weight: 177.67

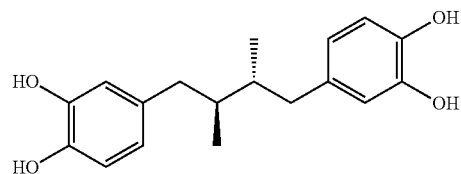
In a 2 L three-necked round bottomed flask was added morpholine (87.12 g, 1.0 mol) acetone (1000 mL), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (276.42 g, 2.0 mol, 2.0 equiv.). The flask was equipped with a mechanical stirrer and a condenser. 4-chloro-1-bromo-butane (188.6 g, 1.1 mol, 1.1 equiv.) was added dropwise under continuous stirring at room temperature over a period of 30 min. The suspension mixture was then stirred at 40° C. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC, which confirmed the reaction was completed after 4 hours. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and the insoluble materials were removed by filtration and washed with dichloromethane (2×100 mL). The combined filtrates were concentrated under vacuum until they became dry. The residue was then mixed with dichloromethane (500 mL). Insoluble materials were removed by filtration and washed by dichloromethane (2×100 mL). The combined filtrate and washings were concentrated and purified through a flash silica gel column, which gave the expected product as a light yellow oil (80.83 g, 45.5% yield).

1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz), δ =1.35 (m, 2H, CH_2), 1.75 (m, 2H, CH_2), 2.41 (t, J =6.5 Hz, 4H, $2CH_2N$), 2.97 (t, J =6.8 Hz, 2H, CH_2N), 3.65 (m, 6H, 2 OCH_2 , CH_2Cl) ppm; consistent with the structure.

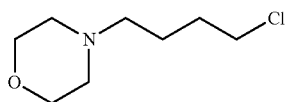
^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz), δ =25.4, 25.8, 45.4, 53.2, 60.2, 65.5 ppm; consistent with the structure.

MS (EI), m/e =178 ($M+1$); consistent with the structure.

Step 2: Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[4-(N-morphino) butoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane
"Compound L"

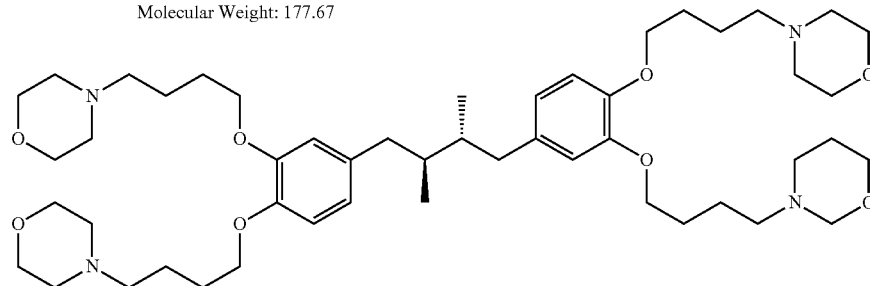


Chemical Formula: $C_{18}H_{22}O_4$
Molecular Weight: 302.36



Chemical Formula: $C_8H_{16}ClNO$
Molecular Weight: 177.67

LiOH, t-BuOH
50° C., 20 h, 41%



Chemical Formula: $C_{50}H_{82}N_4O_8$
Molecular Weight: 867.21

40

To a solution containing NDGA (602 mg, 2.0 mmol) and lithium hydroxide monohydrate (1.0 g, 24.0 mmol, 12 equiv.) in tert-butanol (100 mL) was added N-(4-chlorobutyl)morpholine: (2.13 g, 12.0 mmol, 6.0 equiv.). Then the solution was heated at 50° C. under continuous stirring. The reaction was monitored by TLC (CH_2Cl_2 :MeOH:Et₃N=92:6:2, V/V/V), which confirmed the reaction was completed after 20 hours. The reaction suspension was cooled to room temperature, and partitioned with dichloromethane (200 mL) and water (100 mL). The mixture was shaken to mix well. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane (2×100 mL). The organic layer and extracts were combined and washed with aqueous saturated sodium bicarbonate (100 mL), and brine (10 mL). After drying over anhydrous sodium sulfate, the solution was concentrated under reduced vacuum. The residue was purified through a silica gel column using dichloromethane, methanol and triethylamine (92:6:2, V/V/V) as an eluent, which gave the expected product as white semi-solid material (667.75 mg, 38.5% yield).

HPLC purity—99.2%. Elemental Analysis— $C_{50}H_{82}N_4O_8$, FW=867.21, calculated: C, 69.25; H, 9.53; N, 6.46. Found: C, 69.05; H, 9.21; N, 6.43; consistent with structure.

1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz): δ =0.74 (d, J =6.4 Hz, 6H, $2\times CH_3$), 1.32-1.46 (m, 16H) 1.62-1.71 (m, 2H, $2\times CH$), 2.26 (dd, J =13.4, 9.2 Hz, 2H, $2\times ArCH$), 2.75 (dd, J =13.2, 4.6 Hz, 2H, $2\times ArCH$), 2.51-2.79 (m, 16H, $8\times$ morpholine CH_2), 2.89 (t, J =12.2 Hz, 8H, $4\times CH_2N$), 3.56-3.76 (m, 16H, $8\times$ morpholine CH_2), 4.11 (t, J =5.6 Hz, 8H, $4\times CH_2O$), 6.47-6.69 (m, 6H, $6\times ArH$) ppm, consistent with structure.

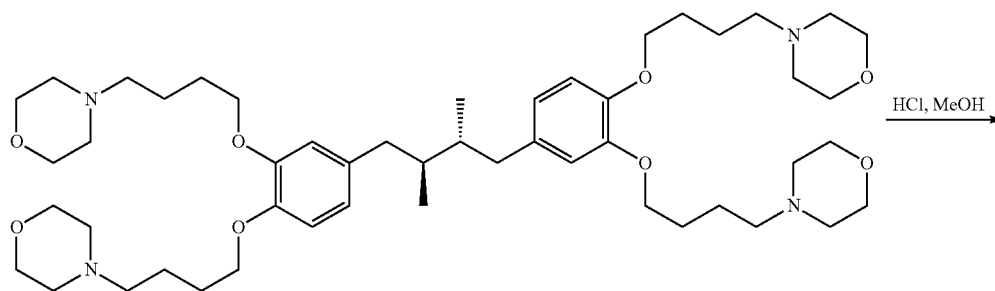
^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz): δ =16.96, 24.31, 24.91, 38.77, 40.18, 54.31, 55.79, 56.46, 60.59, 65.60, 67.58, 67.70, 115.68, 116.09, 122.39, 135.75, 145.39, 149.29 ppm; consistent with structure.

MS (FAB) m/e : 867 ($M+$), 434 ($1/2M+$), consistent with the structure ($C_{54}H_{82}O_8N_4$).

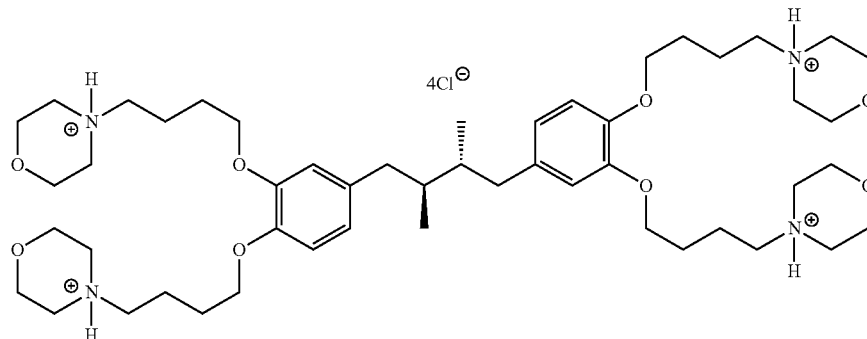
41

Analysis: Calculated for $C_{50}H_{82}N_4O_8$ (867.21) C, 69.25; H, 9.53; N, 6.46. Found C, 68.94; H, 9.39; N, 6.91, consistent with the structure.

Step 3: Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[4-(N-morphino) butoxyl]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane tetrahydrochloride "Compound M"



Chemical Formula: $C_{50}H_{82}N_4O_8$
Molecular Weight: 867.21



Chemical Formula: $C_{50}H_{82}N_4O_8 \cdot 4HCl$
Molecular Weight: 1013.05

To an ice cooled (0-5° C.) solution of aqueous concentrated HCl (2.2 mL of 11 N HCl, 24 mmol, 24 mole equiv.) in 95% ethanol (7 mL) was added dropwise a solution of 1,4-bis(3,4-bis[4-(N-morpholino)butoxy]phenyl)-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane (867.21 mg, 1.0 mmols) in 95% ethanol (7 mL). The solution was allowed to stir at 0-5° C. for three hours and the solvent was removed on a rotary evaporator while keeping the temperature of the water bath at 45° C. The hydrochloride salt was dried under high vacuum for 48 hours. The crude product was then crystallized from ethanol:ether to give 691.9 mg of the product (68.3% yield) after drying under high vacuum for 72 hours. The analytical data for this product are given below.

m.p. 215-220° C. (dec.).

HPLC purity: 98.2% (% peak area). Elemental Analysis— $C_{50}H_{82}N_4O_8 \cdot 4HCl$, FW=1013.05, calculated: C, 59.28; H, 8.56; N, 5.53. Found: C, 58.94; H, 8.21; N, 5.43. Chlorine elemental analysis by titration method (anhydrous basis): theory: 14.00%. found: 14.05%.

1H NMR (D_2O , 400 MHz): δ =0.72 (d, J=6.4 Hz, 6H, 2 \times CH₃), 1.32-1.42 (m, 16H) 1.62-1.68 (m, 2H, 2 \times CH), 2.16 (dd, J=13.4, 9.2 Hz, 2H, 2 \times ArCH), 2.72 (dd, J=13.2, 4.6 Hz, 2H, 2 \times ArCH), 2.41-2.59 (m, 16H, 8 \times morpholine CH₂), 2.70 (t, J=12.2 Hz, 8H, 4 \times CH₂N), 3.46-3.72 (m, 16H, 8 \times morpholine CH₂), 4.01 (t, J=5.6 Hz, 8H, 4 \times CH₂O), 6.57-6.70 (m, 6H, 6 \times ArH) ppm; consistent with structure.

42

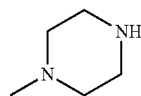
^{13}C NMR (D_2O , 100 MHz): δ =15.96, 23.91, 24.89, 38.57, 39.08, 53.31, 53.79, 57.46, 59.79, 66.50, 66.58, 66.70, 113.68, 114.69, 121.39, 134.75, 146.39, 148.29 ppm; consistent with structure.

MS (FAB) m/e: 867 (M⁺), 434 ($\frac{1}{2}$ M⁺), consistent with free base structure ($C_{54}H_{94}N_8O_8$).

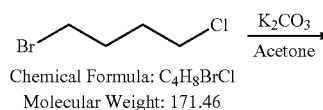
Example 9

Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[4-(N-methyl-piperazino-N'-yl)butoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane free base ($C_{54}H_{94}N_8O_8$, FW=919.38) "Compound N"; octa-hydrochloride salt ($C_{54}H_{94}N_8O_8 \cdot 8HCl$, FW=1211.06) "Compound O"

Step 1: Synthesis of N-methyl-N'-(4-chlorobutyl)piperazine



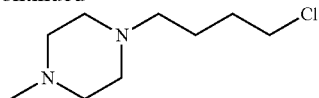
Chemical Formula: $C_5H_{12}N_2$
Molecular Weight: 100.16



Chemical Formula: C_4H_8BrCl
Molecular Weight: 171.46

43

-continued



Chemical Formula: $C_9H_{19}ClN_2$
Molecular Weight: 190.71

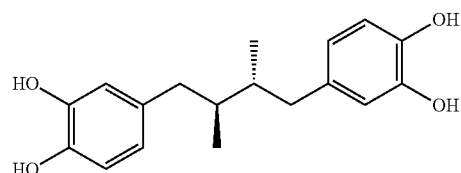
In a 2 L three-necked round bottomed flask was added N-methyl-piperazine (100.16 g, 1.0 mol), acetone (1000 mL), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (276.42 g, 2.0 mol, 2.0 equiv.). The flask was equipped with a mechanical stirrer and a condenser. 4-chloro-1-bromo-butane (188.6 g, 1.1 mol, 1.1 equiv.) was added dropwise under continuous stirring at room temperature over a period of 30 min. The suspension mixture was then stirred at 40° C. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC, which confirmed the reaction was completed after 4 hours. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and the insoluble materials were removed by filtration and washed with dichloromethane (2×100 mL). The combined filtrates were concentrated under vacuum until they became dry. The residue was then mixed with dichloromethane (500 mL). Insoluble materials were removed by filtration and washed by dichloromethane (2×100 mL). The combined filtrate and washings were concentrated and purified through a flash silica gel column, which gave the expected product as light yellow oil. (92.5 g, 48.5% yield).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz), δ =1.37 (m, 2H, CH_2), 1.81 (m, 2H, CH_2), 2.25 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 2.33 (m, 8H, 4 NCH₂), 3.10 (t, J=6.5 Hz, 2H, 2CH₂N), 3.65 (t, J=6.8 Hz, 2H, CH_2Cl) ppm; consistent with the structure.

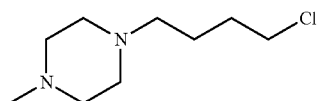
^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz), δ =25.4, 25.9, 44.1, 45.8, 52.1, 53.1, 55.8 ppm; consistent with the structure.

MS (EI), m/e=191 (M+); consistent with the structure.

Step 2: Synthesis of 1,4-bis[3,4-bis[4-(N-methyl-piperazino-N'-yl)butoxy]phenyl]-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane "Compound N"

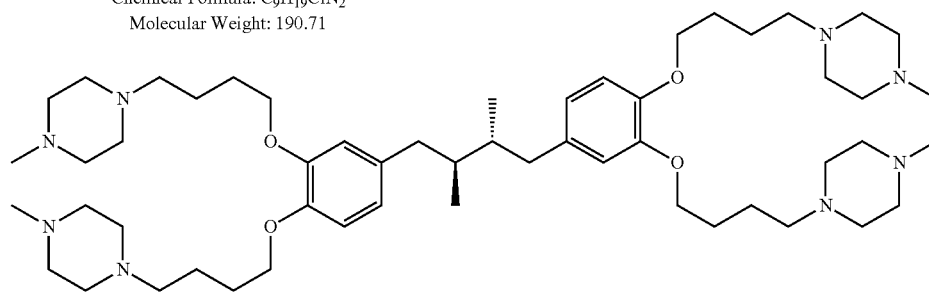


Chemical Formula: $C_{18}H_{22}O_4$
Molecular Weight: 302.36



Chemical Formula: $C_9H_{19}ClN_2$
Molecular Weight: 190.71

LiOH, t-BuOH
50° C., 20 h, 37%



Chemical Formula: $C_{54}H_{94}N_8O_4$
Molecular Weight: 919.38

44

To a solution containing NDGA (602 mg, 2.0 mmol) and lithium hydroxide monohydrate (1.0 g, 24.0 mmol, 12 equiv.) in tert-butanol (100 mL) was added N-methyl-N'-(4-chlorobutyl)piperazine (2.29 g, 12.0 mmol, 6.0 equiv.). The solution was heated at 50° C. under continuous stirring. The reaction was monitored by TLC(CH_2Cl_2 :MeOH:Et₃N=92:6:2, V/V/V), which confirmed the reaction was completed after 20 hours. The reaction suspension was cooled to room temperature, and partitioned with dichloromethane (200 mL) and water (100 mL). The mixture was shaken to mix well. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane (2×100 mL). The organic layer and extracts were combined and washed with aqueous saturated sodium bicarbonate (100 mL), and brine (10 mL). After drying over anhydrous sodium sulfate, the solution was concentrated under reduced vacuum. The residue was purified through a silica gel column using dichloromethane, methanol and triethylamine (92:6:2, V/V/V) as an eluent, which gave the expected product as white semi-solid material (855.02 mg, 46.5% yield).

HPLC purity: 98.2% (% peak area). Elemental Analysis— $C_{54}H_{94}O_8N_8$, FW=919.38. Calculated: C, 70.55; H, 10.31; N, 12.19. Found: C, 70.65; H, 10.11; N, 12.43; consistent with structure.

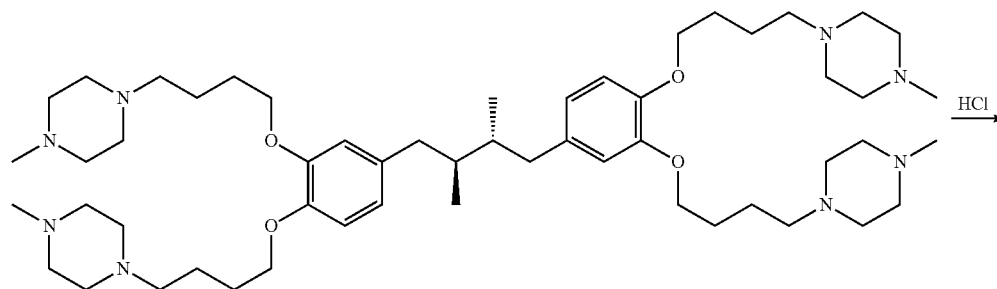
^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ =0.76 (d, J=6 Hz, 6H, 2×CH₃), 1.36-1.56 (m, 16H), 1.65-1.71 (m, 4H), 2.42 (s, 6H), 2.45-2.65 (m, 22H), 2.85 (t, J=6.0 Hz, 4H), 2.95 (t, J=6.0 Hz, 4H), 4.23 (q, J=6.0 Hz, 8H), 6.65-6.78 (m, 6H, 6×ArH) ppm; consistent with structure.

^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ =15.61, 23.55, 24.56, 32.26, 35.58, 46.27, 53.13, 55.05, 56.36, 66.44, 66.86, 113.77, 115.63, 121.15, 145.66, 147.97, 150.02 ppm; consistent with structure.

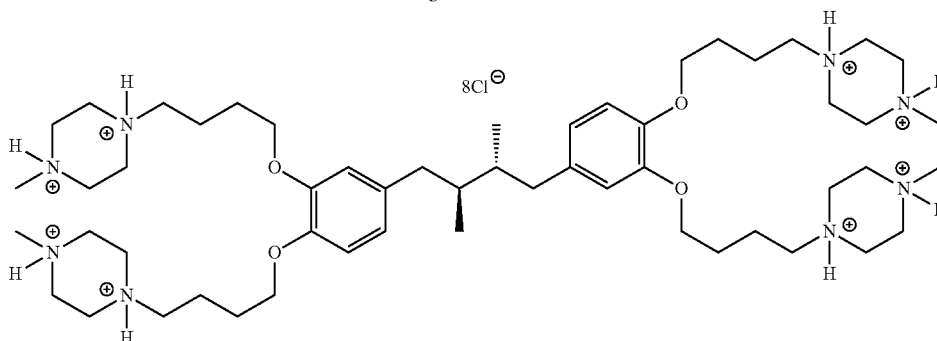
MS (FAB) m/e: 920 (M+), 460 (M+), consistent with the structure.

45

Step 3: Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[4-(N-methyl-piperazino-N'-yl)butoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane octa-hydrochloride "Compound O"



Chemical Formula: $C_{54}H_{94}N_8O_4$
Molecular Weight: 919.38



Chemical Formula: $C_{54}H_{94}N_8O_4 \cdot 8HCl$
Molecular Weight: 1211.06

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To an ice cooled (0-5° C.) solution of aqueous concentrated HCl (2.2 mL of 11 N HCl, 24 mmol, 24 mole equiv.) in 95% ethanol (7 mL) was added dropwise a solution of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[4-(N-methyl-piperazino-N'-yl)butoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane (919.33 mg, 1.0 mmols) in 95% ethanol (7 mL). The solution was allowed to stir at 0-5° C. for three hours and the solvent was removed on a rotary evaporator while keeping the temperature of the water bath at 45° C. The hydrochloride salt was dried under high vacuum for 48 hours. The crude product was then crystallized from ethanol: ether to give 914.35 mg of the product (75.5% yield) after drying under high vacuum for 72 hours. The analytical data for this product are given below.

m.p. 215-220° C. (dec.).

HPLC purity: 98.2% (% peak area). Elemental Analysis— $C_{54}H_{94}N_8O_4 \cdot 8HCl$, FW=1211.06 calculated: C, 53.55; H, 8.49; N, 9.25. Found: C, 53.24; H, 8.21; N, 9.43. Chlorine elemental analysis by titration method (anhydrous basis): theory: 23.42%; found: 23.35%; consistent with the structure.

1H NMR (D_2O , 400 MHz): δ =0.75 (d, J=6 Hz, 6H, 2xCH₃), 1.33-1.46 (m, 16H), 1.55-1.64 (m, 4H), 2.32 (s, 6H),

2.35 (s, 6H), 2.45-2.65 (m, 16H), 2.83 (t, J=6.0 Hz, 4H), 2.82 (t, J=6.0 Hz, 4H), 4.10 (q, J=6.0 Hz, 8H), 6.65-6.78 (m, 6H, 6xArH) ppm; consistent with the structure. 9 (Ar), 132.8 (Ar), 146.4 (Ar), 148.1 (Ar) ppm; consistent with structure.

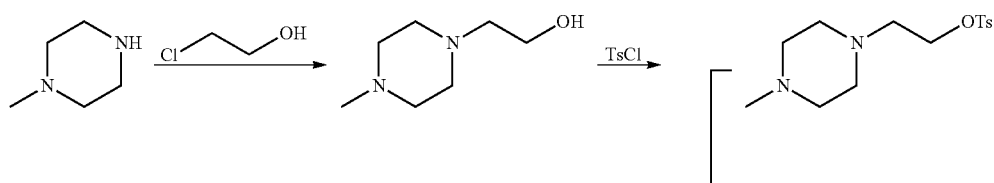
^{13}C NMR (D_2O , 100 MHz): δ =15.91, 23.85, 25.06, 31.26, 35.38, 46.17, 53.73, 55.15, 57.36, 67.34, 67.46, 114.47, 114.73, 120.95, 146.06, 148.77, 149.92 ppm; consistent with the structure.

MS (FAB) m/e: 920 (M⁺), 460 (M⁺); consistent with the structure.

The following Prophetic Examples 1-5 show reaction schemes that are believed to be effective to make the indicated compounds.

Prophetic Example A

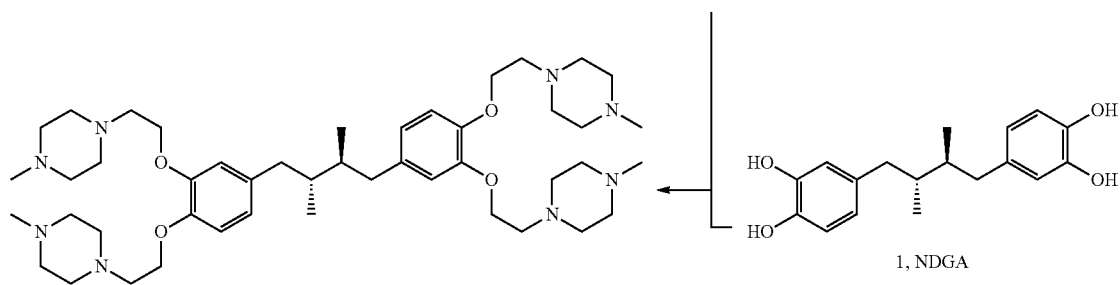
Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[2-(1-methyl-piperazin-4-yl)-ethoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane free base ($C_{46}H_{78}N_8O_4$; FW=807.16); tetrakis-hydrochloride salt ($C_{46}H_{78}N_8O_4 \cdot 4HCl$, FW=953.01)



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-continued



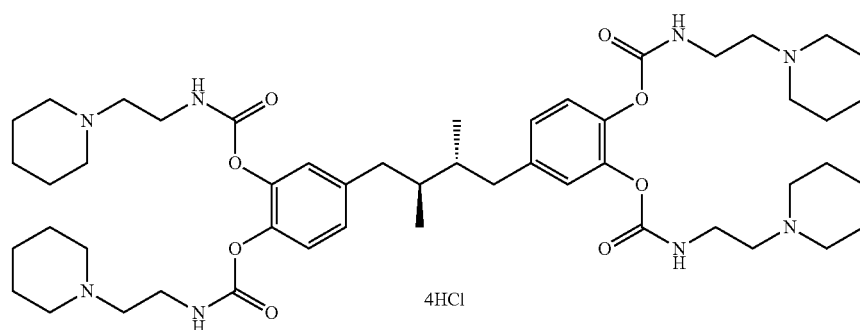
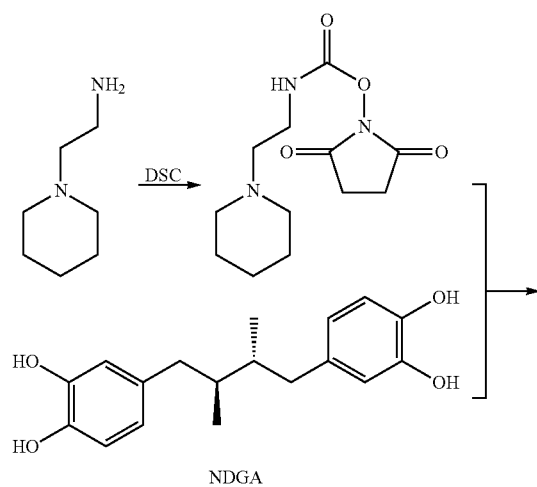
Chemical Formula: $C_{46}H_{78}N_8O_4$
Molecular Weight: 807.16

Prophetic Example B

Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethyl-carbamoyloxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane free base ($C_{50}H_{78}N_8O_8$, FW=919.20); tetrakis-hydrochloride salt ($C_{50}H_{78}N_8O_8 \cdot 4HCl$, FW=1065.05)

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Method 1

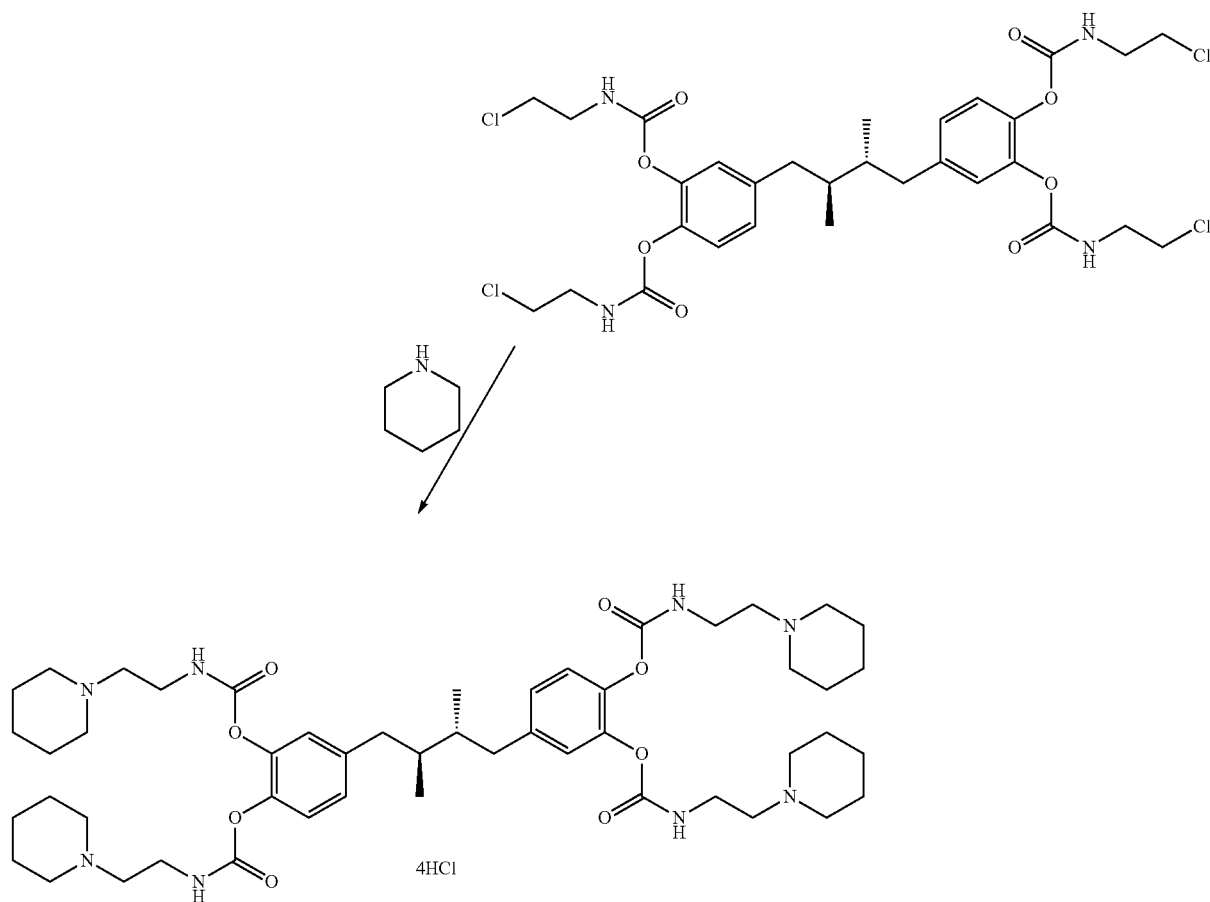
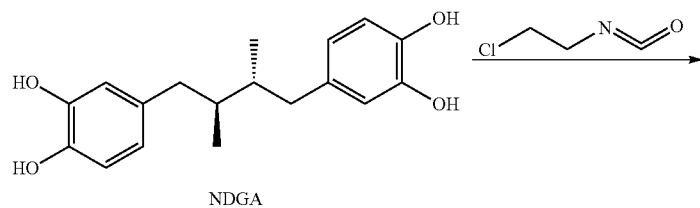


Chemical Formula: $C_{50}H_{82}Cl_4N_8O_8$
Molecular Weight: 1065.05

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Method 2

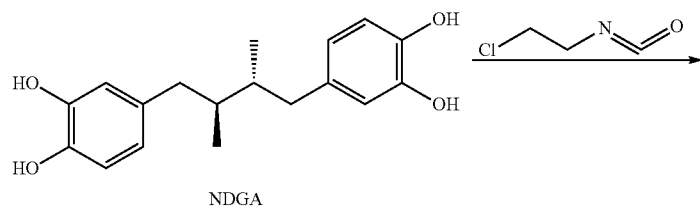


Prophetic Example C

50

Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[2-(morpholin-1-yl)ethylcarbamoyloxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane free base ($C_{46}H_{70}N_8O_{12}$, FW=927.09); tetrakis-hydrochloride salt ($C_{46}H_{70}N_8O_{12} \cdot 4HCl$, FW=1072.94)

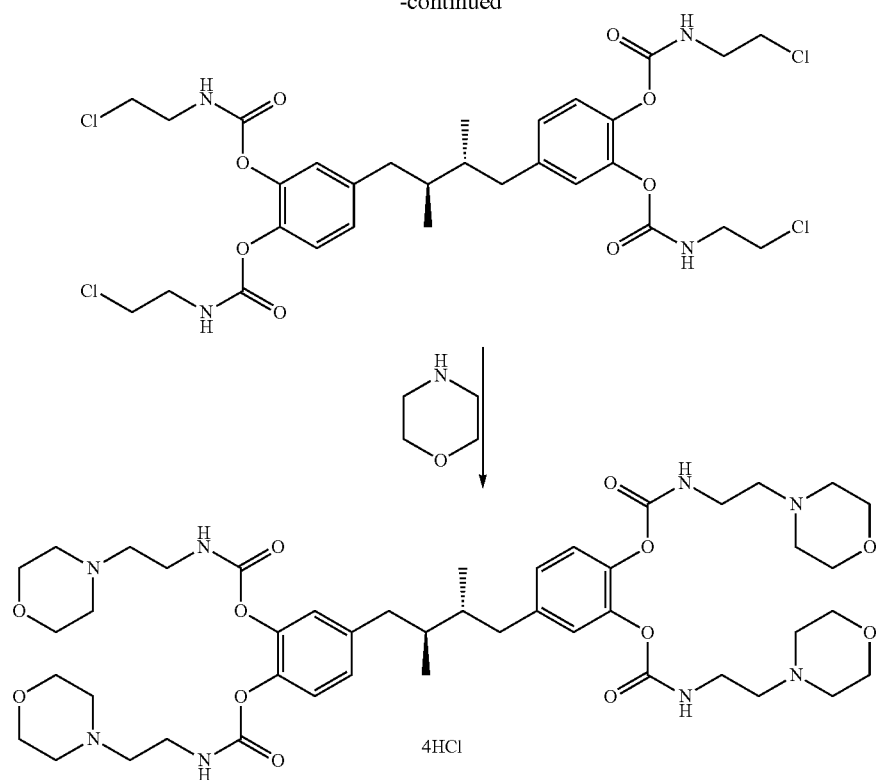
55



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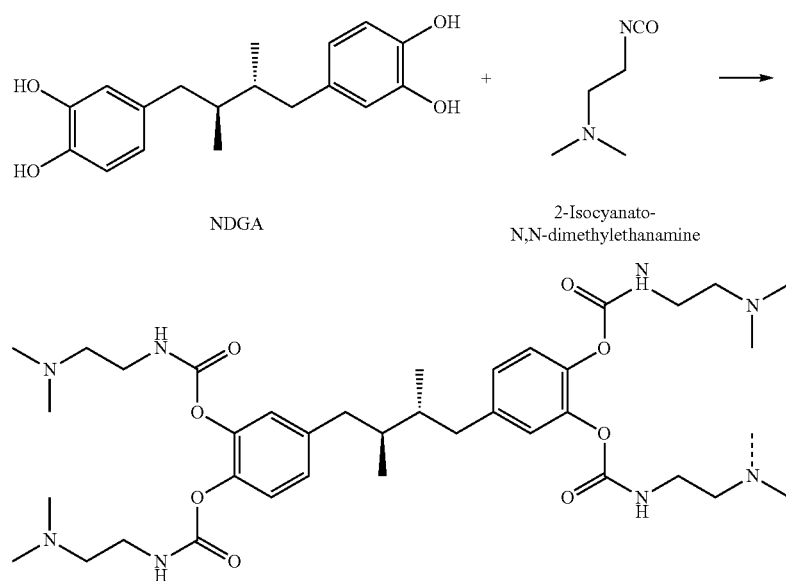
-continued



Prophetic Example D

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Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethyl)carbamoyloxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane free base ($C_{38}H_{62}N_8O_8$, FW=758.95)

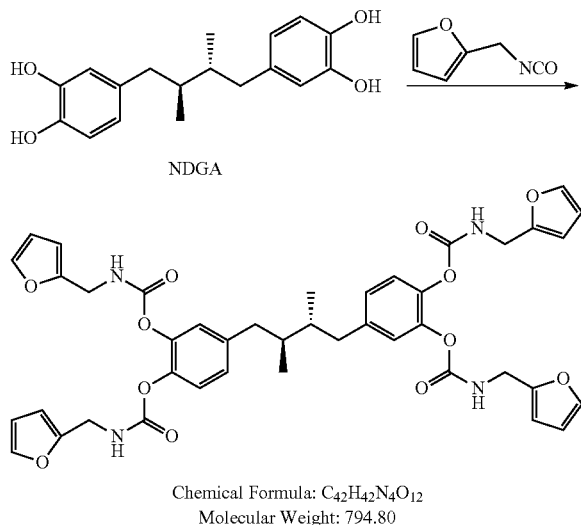


Chemical Formula: $C_{38}H_{62}N_8O_8$
Molecular Weight: 758.95

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Prophetic Example E

Synthesis of 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[(furan-2-yl)methyl-carbamoyloxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane free base ($C_{42}H_{42}N_4O_{12}$, FW=794.80)



The invention will further be described with respect to the following specific, non-limiting working examples relating to in vitro cytotoxicity and effectiveness studies, following the general protocols that were performed.

Cytotoxicity and Effectiveness Studies

Certain of the compounds of the present invention have been studied in vitro. The in vitro studies have established that the various classes of the NDGA derivatives of the present invention would be safe and effective for prophylactic or after-onset treatment of a viral infection or a proliferative, inflammatory, metabolic or vascular disease. The following examples explain the studies involved in such testing.

Cytotoxicity Studies

Studies performed regarding cytotoxicity included the well-known MTS, Trypan Blue and MTT protocols. The MTS studies were done using the CellTiter 96® AQueous One Solution Cell Proliferation Assay (Promega Corporation, Madison, Wis. USA). Metabolically active, namely viable, cells turn MTS, a tetrazolium compound (3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-5-(3-carboxymethoxyphenyl)-2-(4-sulfophenyl)-2H-tetrazolium, inner salt) into colored formazan, which is soluble in tissue culture medium. The measurement of the absorbance of the formazan is read at 490 nm. The ready to use reagent is added directly to the cells in media in 96-well plates, incubated 1-4 hours and the results are recorded by the plate reader. The IC_{50} is estimated by graphing the gathered data. The IC_{50} is the concentration of the tested material that inhibits 50% of growth or viability of the tested material compared to a control.

In the Trypan Blue assay, cells are trypsinized and a sample is added to a solution of trypan blue dye and saline. Viable cells are able to keep the dye on the outside of their membrane, damaged or dead cells are not. Viable and non-viable (blue) cells are counted, and the percent viable is calculated. The proliferation rate is calculated using the values from placebo treated cells and compares the viability of treated cells to that of non-treated cells.

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The MTT assay is a colorimetric method for determining the number of viable cells. Metabolically active cells turn the MTT reagent, (3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide, into purple-colored formazan crystals that are solubilized in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). The MTT reagent is added to MTT (colorless) media. The media is added to the cells and they are incubated for 4 hours. DMSO is added to the cells and mixed. The colored solutions are then read at 540 nm and corrected at 630 nm. The IC_{50} is estimated by graphing the gathered data.

Antiviral Activity SEAP Assay

Antiviral activity is determined using a SEAP (SEcreted Alkaline Phosphatase) assay, in which cells are co-transfected with SEAP and TAT plasmids. TAT is a transactivator, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) gene expression and is one of the two or more necessary viral regulatory factors (TAT and REV) for HIV gene expression. TAT acts by binding to the TAR RNA element and activating transcription from the long terminal repeat (LTR) promoter. The TAT protein stabilizes elongation of transcription and has also been shown to be involved in transcription initiation. Previous studies have shown that TAT mediates reduction of antibody-dependent T cell proliferation, contributing substantially to the failure of the immune response. TAT also directly stimulates Kaposi's cell growth.

Since TAT has no apparent cellular homologs, this strong positive regulator has become an attractive target for the development of anti-AIDS drugs. In contrast to currently available HIV reverse transcriptase inhibitors (AZT, DDI) or potential protease inhibitors that prevent new rounds of infection, an inhibitor which suppresses viral gene TAT regulated expression of integrated proviral DNA will arrest the virus at an early stage (Hsu et al., *Science* 254:1799-1802, 1991). Efforts aimed at the elucidation of factors which control gene expression at transcriptional and post-transcriptional levels in host eukaryotes have recently made possible quantitative assessment of TAT function (Sim, *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* 616: 64-70, 1990). To screen for inhibitors for TAT regulated transactivation (TAT-TRS), the SEAP reporter gene is put under the control of HIV-1 LTR promoter in the plasmid pBC12/HIV/SEAP. The TAT-coded activity is supplied by a second plasmid construct pBC12/CMV/t2. Transient co-transfection of COS-7 cells with these two plasmids leads to secretion of alkaline phosphatase into the culture medium which is analyzed by a simple colorimetric assay (Berger et al., *Gene* 66: 1-10, 1988). The SEAP assay, therefore, provides an indirect determination of TAT transactivation.

In the SEAP assay, an inhibitor should cause reduction of SEAP reporter gene expression via transactivation of the HIV-1 LTR promoter by TAT protein (TAT-TRS). The TAT protein is expressed under the control of a cytomegalovirus promoter and induces the expression of the non-endogenous, heat resistant form of secreted alkaline phosphatase. If TAT transactivation is blocked by a drug, the reporter SEAP will not be excreted into the media. SEAP is detected colorimetrically by the para-nitrophenyl phosphate substrate at 405 nm. See Gnabre¹³. The cells are analyzed by the MTT assay to compare cytotoxicity to SEAP inhibition. The goal is for the drug to inhibit SEAP without being too toxic.

Antiproliferative Activity

Antiproliferative activity is determined using the TiterTACS® Apoptosis Detection Kit (R&D Systems Inc., Minneapolis, Minn. USA) relating to apoptosis of cells based on DNA fragmentation, and by the ELISA VEGF (vascular epithelial growth factor) and survivin assays.

In the DNA fragmentation assay, in situ detection of apoptosis is specifically achieved with TiterTACS® 96-well

Apoptosis Detection kit, Catalog No. TA600 (R&D Systems, Inc.). The TiterTACS® assay provides quantification of apoptosis in cultured cells without direct counting of labeled cells using colorimetric detection. Cells are treated with the test compounds, left untreated as experimental negative controls, or treated with TACS nuclease as positive controls. TACS nuclease allows positive controls to be generated for each experimental system: a brief treatment of cells with the TACS nuclease prior to labeling generates DNA breaks in every cell, providing an appropriate positive control specific for the system under study. The TdT enzyme that catalyzes the addition of dNTPs to DNA fragments allows for colorimetric detection of at 450 nm by using a streptavidin-HRP solution followed by the TACS-Sapphire substrate. A high absorbance at 450 nm is indicative of apoptosis in the cells. Treated cells are compared to untreated cells and to nuclease-cleaved cells to assess the extent of apoptosis.

ELISA (Enzyme-Linked ImmunoSorbent Assay) VEGF studies were done following manufacturer's instructions using the Endogen® Human VEGF ELISA kit, Catalog No. EHVEGF (Pierce Biotechnology, Inc., Rockford, Ill. USA). Hypoxic conditions are created for the cells by treating them with desferrioxamine (DFO), which chelates iron and causes the cells to secrete VEGF into the media. The supernatant (media) was removed and frozen for testing, and the cells were counted with the Trypan Blue assay so that the results can be normalized to cell count. The VEGF is measured with a sandwich ELISA that captures the protein in media on an antibody-coated microplate, and then uses a biotinylated antibody reagent to detect the protein. Results from a standard curve enable the user to quantify the amount of protein in each sample.

ELISA-Survivin Assay

Survivin is an inhibitor of apoptosis that is abundantly expressed in many human cancers, but not in normal adult human tissue, and is considered a possible modulator of the terminal effector phase of cell death/survival. Survivin is expressed in G₂-M in a cell cycle-dependent manner, binding directly to mitotic spindle microtubules. It appears that survivin phosphorylation on Thr34 may be required to maintain cell viability at cell division, and expression of a phosphorylation-defective survivin mutant has been shown to trigger apoptosis in several human melanoma cell lines. Phosphorylated survivin acts on the caspase pathway to suppress the formation of caspase-3 and caspase-9, thereby inhibiting apoptosis. Thus, compounds that reduce the expression of survivin will be expected to increase the rate of apoptosis and cell death.

Effects of the tested compounds on survivin were studied following manufacturer's instructions using the Surveyor™ IC Human Total Survivin Immunoassay, Catalog No. SUV647 (R&D Systems, Inc.). Cell lysates were analyzed for survivin protein content. The kit includes a plate coated with an antibody specific for survivin and a biotinylated antibody reagent that recognizes survivin bound to the plate. The plate is read on a plate reader set at 450 nm and corrected at 540 nm. A protein assay according to the Bradford method (Bradford, M. 1976, *Anal Biochem* 72: 248-254) was used to quantify and normalize the samples according to total protein content. Results from a standard curve enable the user to quantify the amount of survivin protein in each sample.

Anti-Inflammatory Activity

Anti-inflammatory activity was determined based on the effect of tested compounds on primary human keratinocytes (PHKs). PHKs play an important role in inflammatory processes, synthesizing a number of cytokines, adhesion molecules and growth factors. Studies were conducted to deter-

mine whether tested compounds could inhibit keratinocytes to prevent or reduce production of interferon gamma (IFN- γ), interleukin-8 (IL-8), tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF- α), granulocyte/macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF), intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1, also known as CD54) and monocyte chemotactic protein-1 (MCP-1). PHKs are first treated with TNF- α to induce a pro-inflammatory state and release of pro-inflammatory cytokines. Specific cytokines are then assayed following manufacturer's instructions using R&D Systems, Inc.'s protein assays (Quantikine ELISA kits; Catalog Nos. DCP00 for MCP-1 kit, DCM00 for GM-CSF kit, and DIF50 for IFN- γ).

General Protocols for Cytotoxicity Studies Relating to Antiviral and Antiproliferative Activity

Three cell lines obtained from ATCC and maintained as directed by ATCC were tested: HeLa (cervical adenocarcinoma), A549 (lung carcinoma), and COS-7 (SV40 transformed monkey kidney). Studies of these cell lines are considered to be indicative of the effect of tested substances on mammalian, including human, diseases.

All compounds were dissolved in DMSO and DMSO is used as the placebo. The samples were first dissolved into 10 mM dilutions in DMSO and then diluted further to 5, 1, 0.5, 0.1, 0.05, and 0.01 mM solutions. These solutions were added to the media at a 1% concentration (1 μ l to 100 μ l media) to treat the cells with 100, 50, 10, 5, 1, 0.5, and 0.1 μ M of the compound. The compounds that were found to have low IC₅₀s were diluted further in DMSO. Solutions were checked before use for precipitation, especially the 10 mM solutions. If there was precipitation, they were warmed 65° C. and added to warmed media.

Wells on a 96-well plate were seeded with 1.5-8 \times 10⁴ cells in 100 μ l media and incubated overnight. The outside wells of the plate were filled with 200 μ l sterile, deionized (DI) water to curb media evaporation. After 24 hours, test chemicals were prepared in media at a concentration of 1% media volume. The test sample media were added, mixing with the pipette before adding 100 μ l per well. Media was added to the "Media Only" wells. The well plate and its contents were incubated for 24-72 hours, depending on the study conducted. On the day of the MTS assay, the MTS reagent was removed from the refrigerator and brought to room temperature. Using the multichannel pipette, 20 μ l of the MTS reagent was added to each well and incubated for one to four hours. The plate was read at 490 nm with a reference wavelength of 690 nm after one hour in the incubator thereafter until the blank wells were at about 0.2 OD. The results were then scanned into a Microsoft® Excel® template designed to perform all necessary calculations when data are entered. The data were checked for statistical errors; data points that are within 10% of the mean of the data points for that group were included. The average of the blanks ("Media Only") were subtracted and the data were inserted into a chart that represents growth response, treated/untreated.

SEAP Protocol

The following SEAP protocol was used as a reporter system for measuring the activity of TAT-mediated transactivation of HIV transcription. The MTT assay measures cellular proliferation and is used to verify that the levels of SEAP activity are not solely due to cytotoxicity. These assays were used in screening for potential drug compound leads as antiviral agents, and particularly, anti-HIV candidates.

COS-7 (green monkey kidney) cells were co-transfected using Fugene 6 reagent (Roche Applied Science, Cat. No. 11815091001, Indianapolis, Ind., USA) with two plasmids: pHIVSEAP (SEAP expression vector under the control of the HIV LTR promoter) and pCTAT (HIV TAT transcription fac-

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tor expression vector under the control of a CMV (cytomegalovirus) promoter). After test compound treatment for 48 hours, samples were analyzed for SEAP activity at 405 nm after addition of the p-nitrophenyl phosphate substrate. The percentage of SEAP activity inhibition was calculated in relation to the placebo control.

Example 10

SEAP/MTT and MTS Studies

Cytotoxicity and Antiviral Effectiveness

The results of the SEAP/MTT and MTS studies on the indicated compounds from the working Examples above based on the general protocols set forth above are set forth in the following Table 3, where the left hand column identifies the compound tested and EC₅₀ indicates the concentration of the compound having 50% of the effect of the control. IC₅₀ was defined above.

TABLE 3

Compound	SEAP EC ₅₀	COS-7 IC ₅₀	A549 IC ₅₀	HeLa IC ₅₀
A	0.5-1 μ M	0.7-0.9 μ M	0.8-0.9 μ M	2-3 μ M
B				1-5 μ M
D			1-5 μ M	5-10 μ M
M			1-5 μ M	5-10 μ M
O			8-9 μ M	10-30 μ M
F	Variable Response	Variable Response	>100 μ M	>100 μ M
G in H ₂ O			15-20 μ M	15-20 μ M
H in H ₂ O			15-20 μ M	15-20 μ M
I	60-80 μ M	70-80 μ M	65-70 μ M	20-30 μ M
K			>100 μ M	>100 μ M
J	80-90 μ M	80-90 μ M	80-90 μ M	>100 μ M

Results from compounds with biological activity in two cell lines tested using the MTS assay as an indicator of cell viability are shown in Table 3. IC₅₀ concentrations show various degrees of inhibition of cell viability by these compounds. All compounds were able to reduce cell viability, and therefore, induce apoptosis, in a dose dependent manner. Compound A showed the strongest cell viability inhibition in A549 cells, while its hydrochloride salt (Compound B) showed the strongest inhibition in HeLa cells.

The extent of inhibition of TAT-transactivation as determined by SEAP assay also varied among compounds, as also shown in Table 3. Compound A also showed significant antiviral activity with EC₅₀ around 0.5-1.0 μ M. Inhibitory concentrations of cell viability in the test cells (COS-7) as determined by MTT were usually similar as the effective concentrations for TAT-transactivation.

Example 11

Antiproliferative Activity Based on TiterTACS®,
VEGA and Survivin Apoptosis Studies

The results of the TiterTACS® DNA fragmentation, ELISA VEGA and ELISA survivin apoptosis studies on the indicated compounds from the working Examples above, based on the general protocols above, are set forth in the following Table 4.

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TABLE 4

Compound	DNA fragmentation	Survivin IC ₅₀	VEGF IC ₅₀
B	Negative		2 μ M
D	Positive	4 μ M	9 μ M
M	Positive	5 μ M	9 μ M
O	Positive	14 μ M	18 μ M
G in H ₂ O			25 μ M
H in H ₂ O	Positive	10 μ M	23 μ M

Positive = induces apoptosis
Negative = does not induce apoptosis

The compounds tested have shown significant reduction of survivin protein levels at low micromolar concentrations. Consequently, they have also shown strong apoptosis indication as determined by the DNA fragmentation assay. Compounds D, M, O and H reduce survivin protein expression and are therefore able to induce apoptosis. These compounds are able to decrease survivin and induce apoptosis in a dose-dependent manner. Compound D was the most potent inhibitor of survivin protein production with IC₅₀ for survivin production around 4 μ M.

Release of VEGF protein is also decreased by these compounds. Inhibition of VEGF protein production ranged in the low micromolar concentrations for compounds B, D, M, O, G and H. Inhibition by all compounds was observed in a dose-dependent fashion. Compound B showed an IC₅₀ for VEGF production around 2 μ M, while compounds D and M both showed VEGF IC₅₀ at around 9 μ M.

The results from Table 4 indicate that the compounds of the present invention are effective in inhibiting viral activity and causing cell death (apoptosis) in the cell lines tested. Of the compounds tested, Compounds A, B, D, G, H, M and O appear to be more effective than the others due to their lower EC₅₀ and IC₅₀ values. Compound A appears to be the most effective.

Example 12

U.S. National Cancer Institute DTP Human Tumor
Cell Line Screen

The United States National Cancer Institute (NCI) provides a developmental therapeutics program (DTP) (<http://dtp.nci.nih.gov/branches/btb/ivclsp.html>) to screen submitted substances in support of cancer drug discovery. The In Vitro Cell Line Screening Project (IVCLSP) is a dedicated service providing direct support to the DTP anticancer drug discovery program and is designed to screen up to 3,000 compounds per year for potential anticancer activity. The operation of this screen utilizes 60 different human tumor cell lines, representing leukemia, melanoma and cancers of the lung, colon, brain, ovary, breast, prostate, and kidney. The aim is to prioritize for farther evaluation, synthetic compounds or natural product samples showing selective growth inhibition or cell killing of particular tumor cell lines. This screen is unique in that the complexity of a 60 cell line dose response produced by a given compound results in a biological response pattern which can be utilized in pattern recognition algorithms (COMPARE program. See: <http://dtp.nci.nih.gov/docs/compare/compare.html>). Using these algorithms, it is possible to assign a putative mechanism of action to a test compound, or to determine that the response pattern is unique and not similar to that of any of the standard prototype compounds included in the NCI database. In addition, following characterization of various cellular molecular targets in the 60

cell lines, it may be possible to select compounds most likely to interact with a specific molecular target.

The screening is a two-stage process, beginning with the evaluation of all compounds against the 60 cell lines at a single dose of 10 μ M. The output from the single dose screen is reported as a mean graph and is available for analysis by the COMPARE program. Compounds which exhibit significant growth inhibition are evaluated against the 60 cell panel at five concentration levels.

Methodology of the In Vitro Cancer Screen

The human tumor cell lines of the cancer screening panel are grown in RPMI 1640 medium containing 5% fetal bovine serum and 2 mM L-glutamine. For a typical screening experiment, cells are inoculated into 96 well microtiter plates in 100 μ L at plating densities ranging from 5,000 to 40,000 cells/well depending on the doubling time of individual cell lines. After cell inoculation, the microtiter plates are incubated at 37° C., 5% CO₂, 95% air and 100% relative humidity for 24 hours prior to addition of experimental drugs.

After 24 hours, two plates of each cell line are fixed in situ with trichloroacetic acid (TCA), to represent a measurement of the cell population for each cell line at the time of drug addition (Tz). Experimental drugs are solubilized in DMSO at 400-fold the desired final maximum test concentration and stored frozen prior to use. At the time of drug addition, an aliquot of frozen concentrate is thawed and diluted to twice the desired final maximum test concentration with complete medium containing 50 μ g/ml gentamicin. Additional four, 10-fold or 1/2 log serial dilutions are made to provide a total of five drug concentrations plus control. Aliquots of 100 μ L of these different drug dilutions are added to the appropriate microtiter wells already containing 100 μ L of medium, resulting in the required final drug concentrations.

Following drug addition, the plates are incubated for an additional 48 hours at 37° C., 5% CO₂, 95% air, and 100% relative humidity. For adherent cells, the assay is terminated by the addition of cold TCA. Cells are fixed in situ by the gentle addition of 50 μ L of cold 50% (w/v) TCA (final concentration, 10% TCA) and incubated for 60 minutes at 4° C. The supernatant is discarded, and the plates are washed five times with tap water and air dried. Sulforhodamine B (SRB) solution (100 μ L) at 0.4% (w/v) in 1% acetic acid is added to each well, and plates are incubated for 10 minutes at room temperature. After staining, unbound dye is removed by washing five times with 1% acetic acid and the plates are air dried. Bound stain is subsequently solubilized with 10 mM trizma base, and the absorbance is read on an automated plate reader at a wavelength of 515 nm. For suspension cells, the methodology is the same except that the assay is terminated by fixing settled cells at the bottom of the wells by gently adding 50 μ L of 80% TCA (final concentration, 16% TCA). Using the seven absorbance measurements [time zero, (Tz), control growth, (C), and test growth in the presence of drug at the five concentration levels (Ti)], the percentage growth is calculated at each of the drug concentrations levels. Percentage growth inhibition is calculated as:

$$\frac{[(Ti-Tz)/(C-Tz)] \times 100}{Ti \geq Tz} \text{ for concentrations for which } Ti \geq Tz$$

$$\frac{[(Ti-Tz)/Tz] \times 100}{Ti < Tz} \text{ for concentrations for which } Ti < Tz.$$

Three dose response parameters are calculated for each experimental agent. Growth inhibition of 50% (GI₅₀) is calculated from $[(Ti-Tz)/(C-Tz)] \times 100 = 50$, which is the drug concentration resulting in a 50% reduction in the net protein increase (as measured by SRB staining) in control cells during the drug incubation. The drug concentration resulting in

total growth inhibition (TGI) is calculated from $Ti=Tz$. The LC₅₀ (concentration of drug resulting in a 50% reduction in the measured protein at the end of the drug treatment as compared to that at the beginning) indicating a net loss of cells following treatment is calculated from $[(Ti-Tz)/Tz] \times 100 = -50$. Values are calculated for each of these three parameters if the level of activity is reached; however, if the effect is not reached or is exceeded, the value for that parameter is expressed as greater or less than the maximum or minimum concentration tested.

A summary of the results of the NCI DTP study as described above for Compound A at 10 μ M is set forth in Table 5:

TABLE 5

Cell Line Panel (# cell lines)	Compound A Mean Growth Percent at 10 μ M
NSCLC (8)	-90.92
Colon Cancer (7)	-94.08
Breast Cancer (6)	-67.95
Ovarian Cancer (6)	-85.89
Leukemia (6)	-81.93
Renal Cancer (6)	-95.54
Melanoma (8)	-92.38
Prostate (2)	-95.47
CNS (6)	-93.97

n.

The results indicate that Compound A at 10 μ M concentration had broad-based activity against a number of the types of the 60 cell lines. The most inhibitory effects were shown against the renal cancer cell lines, followed closely by prostate cancer cell lines, with the least inhibitory effects shown against breast cancer.

Example 13

Anti-Inflammatory and Anti-Vascular Disease Activity PHK Studies

Anti-inflammatory activity of several of the compounds of the previously described working examples was determined based on the effect of tested compounds on primary human keratinocytes (PHKs) as described above and following the manufacturer's instructions for the various kits used in the studies. While these studies more typically are used mostly for anti-inflammatory investigations, they can also apply to vascular diseases, since the results in keratinocytes may be extrapolated to vascular endothelium.

Only MCP-1 data with PHKs is dose-dependent, so an IC₅₀ for MCP-1 can be calculated, but not for the other cytokines. Results of the MCP-1 studies on various compounds are shown in the following Table 6.

TABLE 6

Compound	MCP-1 IC ₅₀
B	2 μ M
F	>100 μ M
I	25 μ M
J	70 μ M

Results from compounds with anti-inflammatory activity in TNF- α -treated PHK as assayed by MCP-1 protein production are shown in Table 6. IC₅₀ concentrations for MCP-1

protein show various degrees of inhibition of this inflammatory cytokine. In results of other of these tests, all compounds that were tested were able to reduce MCP-1 protein production in a dose dependent manner. Compound B showed the strongest inhibition of MCP-1 in TNF- α -treated PHK.

Example 14

Permeability Studies as Indicative of Oral Bioavailability

Permeability studies were conducted by an outside contractor on behalf of the assignee of the present invention and application to determine the permeability of Compound A through Caco-2 monolayers. An important factor of oral bioavailability is the ability of a compound to be absorbed in the small intestine. Measurement of drug apparent permeability (P_{app}) through cell monolayers is well correlated with human intestinal absorption, and several mammalian cell lines, including Caco-2, LLC-PK1 and MDCK, are appropriate for this measurement (Artursson, P. et al., Correlation between oral drug absorption in humans and apparent drug permeability coefficients in human intestinal epithelial (Caco-2) cells. *Biochem Biophys Res Comm* 175:880-885 (1991); Stewart, B. H., et al., Comparison of intestinal permeabilities in multiple in vitro and in situ models: relationship to absorption in humans. *Pharm Res* 12:693 (1995)). P-Glycoprotein (P-gp, encoded by MDR1) is a member of the ABC transporter super family and is expressed in the human intestine, liver and other tissues. Intestinal expression of P-gp may affect the oral bioavailability of drug molecules that are substrates for this transporter. Interaction with P-gp can be studied using direct assays of drug transport in polarized cell systems such as Caco-2 cell monolayers, and human P-gp cDNA-expressing LLC-PK₁ and MDCK cell monolayers.

Caco-2 cells (human adenocarcinoma colonic cell line Caco-2, ATCC Cat. No. HTB-37, used between passages 18 and 45) were seeded onto BD Falcon™ HTS 24-Multiwell, 1 μ m culture inserts (BD catalog #351180) (BD Biosciences Discovery Labware, Woburn, Mass., USA.). The cells were cultured for 21-25 days with media replacement every 3-4 days. Monolayer integrity was evaluated by pre-experimental trans-epithelial electrical resistance (TEER) measurements and post-experimental lucifer yellow A to B flux determinations.

Transport buffer was HBSS (Hanks Balanced Salt solution) buffered with the addition of 10 mM HEPES (N-[2-Hydroxyethyl]piperazine-N'-[2-ethanesulfonic acid]), and pH adjusted to 7.4 with NaOH. Receiver solution was prepared by adding 1% DMSO to transport buffer. The test solution was of Compound A in DMSO in transport buffer at a final DMSO concentration of 1%. Donor solutions for two permeability comparator compounds (50 μ M [3 H]-propranolol as "High" and 50 μ M [14 C]-mannitol as "Low") as well as a positive control P-gp substrate (5 μ M [3 H]-digoxin) were prepared by diluting aliquots of radiolabeled and non-radiolabeled stock solutions into transport buffer at a final DMSO concentration of 1%.

The test articles were assayed at a single concentration (1 μ M) in both A to B and B to A directions. The donor and receiver solutions were added to the apical or basolateral chambers of the monolayers (depending on the direction of transport to be measured). The monolayers were incubated on an orbital shaker (50 rpm) at 37° C., with ambient humidity and CO₂. After 90 minutes, samples from the donor and receiver chambers were removed for analysis.

To determine the extent of non-specific binding of the sample to the assay plate, the sample solution was incubated under the conditions described above in a single well of a 24-well assay plate. After 90 minutes, the sample was removed from each well for analysis. After all samples were collected, lucifer yellow solution was added to each monolayer at a final concentration of 100 μ M. The inserts were placed in a new receiver plate containing transport buffer. After a 30 min. incubation on an orbital shaker (50 rpm) at 37° C., with ambient humidity and CO₂, samples were removed from the receiver chamber to measure percent lucifer yellow flux.

Two permeability comparator compounds representing high permeability (50 μ M [3 H]-propranolol) and low permeability (50 μ M [14 C]-mannitol) were assayed in the A to B direction, with samples from the donor and receiver chambers taken at one time point of 90 minutes. The control P-gp substrate was 5 μ M [3 H]-digoxin assayed in both A to B and B to A directions, with samples from the donor and receiver chambers taken at one time point of 90 minutes. Duplicate monolayers were used for each incubation.

Samples were analyzed by LC/MS/MS using peak area ratios to an internal standard. Test article concentrations were calculated based on the peak area ratios obtained for appropriate dilutions of the donor solution containing the test article at the nominal concentration in transport buffer. Samples were diluted as appropriate to ensure that the response was within the linear range of the mass spec detector. Comparator and control samples were analyzed by liquid scintillation counting. Lucifer yellow concentrations were determined using a fluorescence plate reader.

Pre-experimental trans-epithelial electrical resistance (TEER) measurements (mean 411 Ω cm²) and post-experimental lucifer yellow A to B flux (mean 0.1%) confirmed monolayer integrity. The polarization of the positive control digoxin confirmed a functioning P-gp transport model. The P_{app} values for the permeability comparators mannitol and propranolol were within historical ranges observed at the testing facility with this test system (mean $4.1 \times 10^{-7} \pm \text{SD } 2.4 \times 10^{-7}$ for mannitol, $1.5 \times 10^{-5} \pm 4.2 \times 10^{-5}$ for propranolol) indicating a properly functioning model.

The results for the permeability comparators mannitol and propranolol as well as for the control P-gp substrate digoxin are reported in the following Table 7.

TABLE 7

Compound	P_{app} [cm/s] mean		Polarization Ratio mean	Mass balance mean	
	A to B	B to A	(B-A/A-B)	A to B	B to A
digoxin (5 μ M)	2.28E-06	1.24E-05	5.4	73%	79%
propranolol (50 μ M)	1.42E-05	n.d.	n.d.	71%	n.d.
mannitol (50 μ M)	5.14E-07	n.d.	n.d.	96%	n.d.

n.d.—not determined

Bidirectional permeability data as well as polarization ratios obtained for the test compound in Caco-2 cell monolayers are reported in Table 8.

TABLE 8

Test article	Nominal conc. [μM]	P _{app} [cm/s]				Polarization Ratio [B-A/A-B]
		A to B		B to A		
Compound A	1.0	9.75E-06	9.61E-06	1.74E-06	1.72E-06	0.18

The recovery of Compound A from the apical and basolateral chambers (mass balance) as well as from a single well of a 24-well culture plate without cells (non-specific binding) at the end of the incubation is reported in Table 9.

TABLE 9

Test article	Nominal conc. [μM]	Mass Balance *				Non-specific Binding
		A to B		B to A		% Recovery
Compound A	1.0	36%	39%	38%	30%	13%

* Mass balance/recovery values of >100% are typically due to increased solubility over the course of the incubation

Conclusions

The results were very encouraging. Permeability studies in Caco-2 cell monolayer as an in vitro model of intestinal absorption demonstrate that Compound A falls under the moderate class as determined by the BCS permeability classification system.

Monolayer TEER results as well as post-experimental lucifer yellow flux results indicated the presence of functional cell monolayers throughout the assay. The positive control for P-gp transport, digoxin, showed polarized transport (polarization ratio of 5.4, Table 7) indicating a properly functioning test system.

Mass balance and non-specific binding determinations showed that Compound A was bound to the plastic plate and/or the cells to a degree that might have reduced the amount of compound available or diffusion and transport. As a result, the apparent P_{app} values and resulting polarization ratios (Table 8) may underestimate the permeability of Compound A and should be used with caution when assigning it to a BCS permeability class as shown in Table 10.

TABLE 10

Permeability Class ^[3]	Absorption in Humans ^[4]	Papp (cm/sec)
low	<50%	\leq mannitol
moderate	50-89%	>mannitol and <propranolol
high	\geq 90%	\geq propranolol

The A-B permeability observed Compound A were between those observed for mannitol and propranolol. Based on the BCS permeability classification (Table 10), Compound A would be considered to be a moderate permeability compound.

Compound A showed polarization ratios of 0.1-0.2, indicating that A-B permeability exceeded B-A permeability for this compound. This finding is inconsistent with P-gp mediated B-A efflux, and may suggest involvement of active A-B flux by a transporter other than P-gp.

The foregoing studies demonstrate that representative compounds of the NDGA derivatives of the present invention would be useful pharmaceutical compounds.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that changes could be made to the embodiments described above without departing from the broad inventive concept thereof. It is understood, therefore, that this invention is not limited to the particular embodiments disclosed, but it is intended to cover modifications within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

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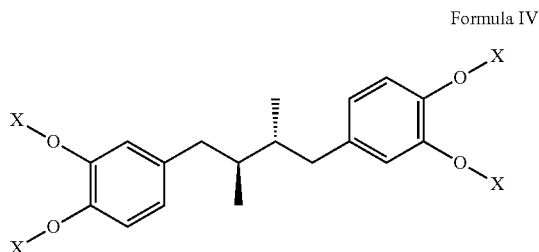
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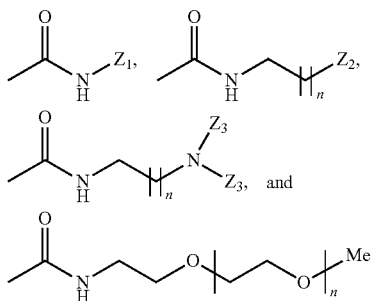
We claim:

1. A nordihydroguaiaretic acid (NDGA) derivative compound having the following general structure (Formula IV), and its pharmaceutically acceptable salts:



wherein X is selected from the group consisting of:

- A-R;
- (CH₂)_xHal, where x is an integer of 1 to 10, and Hal is a halogen atom, and
- (CH₂CH₂O)_yH, where y is an integer of 1 to 10; and a carbamate-bonded group selected from the group consisting of:



where n is an integer of 1 to 6, Z₁ is a saturated linear hydrocarbon chain of 2-6 carbons and optionally 1-3 halogen atoms, Z₂ is a 5- to 7-member ring optionally containing 0-3 double bonds and optionally containing 1-3 atoms of any of O, N and S, and Z₃ is methyl or ethyl; wherein when X is -A-R, R is an end group and A is a linear saturated hydrocarbon side chain bonded at one end to the respective hydroxy residue O groups of NDGA by an ether bond from NDGA or a carbamate bond and at the other end to a carbon or a heteroatom in the end group R;

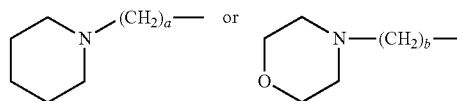
wherein the side chain A is selected from the group consisting of a C₂-C₁₆ linear saturated hydrocarbon chain optionally with 1-5 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of O, N and S, bonded to the respective hydroxy residue O groups of NDGA through an ether bond from NDGA; and 1-5 units of a polyethylene glycol (PEG) chain;

wherein R is selected from the group consisting of:

- a 5 to 7 member carbocyclic ring selected from the group consisting of a fully saturated ring with 1 to 3 N, O or S heteroatoms; a ring containing 1 to 3

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double bonds with 1 to 3 N, O or S heteroatoms; a ring containing a carbamate bond, a urea bond, a carbonate bond or an amide bond; and a water soluble group selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal salt of sulfonic acid; an alkali metal salt of phosphonic acid; a pharmaceutically acceptable salt; a sugar and a polyhydroxy group; and wherein when X is



a is an integer of 3 to 16 and b is an integer of 4 to 16.

2. A composition comprising the NDGA derivative of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, optionally with other pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

3. The compound of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[3-(piperidin-1-yl)propoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. The compound of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[4-(N-piperidino)butoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. The compound of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1,4-bis{3,4-bis(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl-methoxy)phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. The compound of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1,4-bis{3,4-bis(2-(N,N'-dimethylamino)-ethoxy)phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. The compound of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1,4-bis{3,4-bis(2-(N,N'-dimethylamino)-ethoxy)phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. The compound of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1,4-bis{3,4-bis(2-hydroxyethoxy)phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. The compound of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. The compound of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1,4-bis[3,4-bis(2-fluoro-ethoxy)phenyl]-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. The compound of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1,4-bis[3,4-bis(2-fluoro-ethoxy)phenyl]-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. The compound of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[4-(N-morpholino)butoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. The compound of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[4-(N-methyl-piperazino-N'-yl)butoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. The compound of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[2-(1-methyl-piperazin-4-yl)-ethoxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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15. The compound of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethylcarbamoyloxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. The compound of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[2-(morpholin-1-yl)ethylcarbamoyloxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. The compound of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethyl)carbamoyloxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. The compound of claim 1 wherein the compound is 1,4-bis{3,4-bis[(furan-2-yl)methyl-carbamoyloxy]phenyl}-2,3-dimethyl-(2R,3S)-butane or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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